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Nico Ladenis loves foodies

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My life seemed one long party

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Trouble looming over VAT on fuel

Labour woos Europe with honeyed talk

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

THE new Government yesterday launched a charm offensive towards the European Union, promising a fresh start to its partners in Brussels but also warning them that Britain would not cede control of its borders or the national veto in key areas.

Doug Henderson, the Minister for Europe, brought Tony Blair's goodwill message to a Brussels treaty negotiation. He also formally outlined Britain's intention to sign the social chapter and implement it within weeks.

The move was widely welcomed, but potential trouble loomed for Labour with the announcement that the European Commission is planning new employment legislation as part of the social chapter. The Commission also objected to Labour's plan to cut VAT on heating fuel to 5 per cent.

European officials sat in silence verging on disbelief as they heard a British minister utter the kind of language that the Union has not heard from London since John Major proclaimed Britain's place in the "heart of Europe" in 1990. It was time to "draw a line under the recent past", Mr Henderson said.

"We want to work with you as colleagues in a shared enterprise. Not using the language of opponents. Europe, for the new British Government is an opportunity, not a threat."

Reflecting the delight over the departure of the Conservative team, a senior German official said the change in British tone was "a breath of oxygen in a stale room, almost too good to be true".

However, echoing the campaign promises made by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secre-



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tary, Mr Henderson emphasised the importance of completing the single market, reforming the common agricultural policy, preparing the Union's eastward expansion and tackling unemployment, notably through promoting flexible labour markets.

"This market-based emphasis was shared by the Conservative Government and is regarded as insufficiently 'social' by many European parties. The British are still the British," said a Dutch official. "We're under no illusion that they have become continental. But the goodwill should bear fruit."

The Government's support for the social chapter is the biggest break with recent British policy. The chapter, from which Britain opted out at Maastricht in 1991, contains only two anodyne pieces of legislation on worker consultation for multinational firms and parental leave. The Commission gave an inkling of controversy in store, however,

when it outlined new laws under preparation. Such laws are mainly passed by majority voting.

The first new legislation will shift the burden of proof in sex discrimination. As a result, employers will share with the employee the requirement to prove that discrimination did or did not take place. Some British firms fear this may mean that employers must prove that they are not guilty of discrimination rather than leaving it to the worker to provide evidence that they were unfairly treated.

Legislation is also being drafted to offer part-time workers protection comparable to that of full-time employees. Some British employers claim this will hamper their efforts to compete in the global market. The Commission is also talking to the employers' federations and unions about new measures to tackle sexual harassment in the workplace.

Padraig Flynn, the European Commissioner for Social Affairs, is pressing for works councils to be extended beyond big international companies to cover all firms employing more than a handful of workers.

The Commission said Labour's pledge to cut VAT on fuel seemed to be counter to the whole spirit of the EU's drive to harmonise VAT. Britain had been given dispensation to keep rates lower on a temporary basis, but it was expected to bring the rate up at least to the minimum of 15 per cent. The spokeswoman for Mario Monti, the taxation commissioner, said that the



Nicholas and Kathryn taking possessions out to a removal van yesterday

Blair necessities of family life go to Downing Street

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

AS THE Prime Minister put the finishing touches to his Government yesterday, his wife and children moved into Downing Street.

Football, mountain bikes and a giant teddy bear were loaded into a van at the family home in Islington along with at least three dozen pairs of Cherie's shoes and her husband's electric guitar and amplifier. The Prime Minister's London residence seems destined to be a rather noisier place than it has been for many years.

Mr Blair set off for Downing Street at 9am yesterday in the prime ministerial Daimler, leaving his family to it. A van arrived with a team of friends to help Mrs Blair but clearly the real foreman was nine-year-old Kathryn Blair.

A natural at smiling unprompted for the cameras, she skipped up and down outside the three-storey north London house supervising the loading. In went a kingsize wooden and steel bed with a brass head, armfuls of suits, dresses and shirts on hangers, stacks of blue crates and holdalls.

Kathryn and her brother Nicholas, staggered out carrying a crate between them. "Smile Nick," said one of the family friends. Later yesterday

Downing Street issued a statement to media editors saying that the Blairs were happy for their children to be photographed at public occasions and moving into their new home, but were anxious that they should otherwise be allowed privacy.

The sight of canvas shoe holders stacked with a prodigious number of women's shoes invited media onlookers to make the obvious comparisons with Imelda Marcos. A



New ties: Tony Blair's neckwear is transferred

clothes rail was set up inside the removal van to ensure that the suits and dresses remained wrinkle-free. The football gear, together with the guitar, teddy, bikes and two computers, had to wait for a second trip. In another possible Downing Street first a Manchester United duvet looked to be destined for one of the junior bedrooms.

With the first load ready Mrs Blair, in blue tracksuit bottoms and anorak, jumped into a Montego with the children and helpers and followed the van to Downing Street where, after a swap with the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, they will live in No 11 while he occupies the attic flat at neighbouring No 10.

At Downing Street an even bigger media audience had gathered to watch the same possessions unpacked. But the van disappeared round the side of No 10 and attention had to turn to Humphrey, the Downing Street cat, who has seen a couple of prime ministers come and go and, when not snoring, made a point of ignoring the whole kerfuffle by busily washing.

Mr Blair is expected to spend some of his 44th birthday today with his family as they settle into their new

Redwood enters leadership race 'not having to defend mistakes'

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN REDWOOD this morning announces his challenge for the Conservative leadership with a declaration that he is the only contender able to take on Tony Blair without having to defend the mistakes of the defeated Tory Government.

The former Cabinet minister, beaten by John Major in the 1995 leadership contest, enters the battle claiming that he can unite the Conservative Party and give it hope for the future. Writing in *The Times*, he makes his decision to resign from the Government in 1996 one of the strengths of his appeal this time.

The clear implication is that he is the only candidate untainted by recent failures. "I am the only Conservative likely to run in this leadership election who could face Tony Blair across the dispatch box and put down endless difficult questions about the 1992-97 Government," he writes. "I do not have to defend past mistakes as I resigned from that Government. I would be able to point the Conservative Party firmly towards the future and concentrate on opposing."

At a Westminster press conference today, Michael Howard, the former Home Secretary, will throw his hat into the ring. Kenneth Clarke, the former Chancellor, and Peter Lilley, the former Social Security Secretary, have already done so.

Stephen Dorrell, the former Health Secretary, and William Hague, the former Welsh Secretary, are consulting friends before announcing that they, too, will run.

With the leadership contest up and running, John Major, the outgoing leader, is expected shortly to reappoint the Cabinet survivors of last Thursday's rout to a temporary Shadow Cabinet that will see the Tory Opposition

through the first weeks of the new Parliament.

It has also emerged that John MacGregor, the former Cabinet minister, is being urged to stand for the chairmanship of the backbench 1922 Committee as a unifying force to help the party through its post-election trauma.

Mr Clarke's supporters were claiming yesterday that he is picking up support from MPs who would have backed Michael Heseltine, who stood down at the weekend after



Redwood: "untainted"

suffering an angina attack. They say he is certain to put up a good showing in the first ballot.

Organisers of the Lilley and Howard camps accept that Mr Clarke will do well in the early ballot, but expect a right-wing contender to win eventually.

The initial battle will be between the Lilley, Howard, Redwood and Hague campaigns for the votes of the centre-right. Mr Lilley appeared yesterday to be attracting many backers who would have been in the camp of Michael Portillo, who lost his parliamentary seat in Thursday's election.

John Redwood, page 20
Leading article
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Banks bowled over by new job

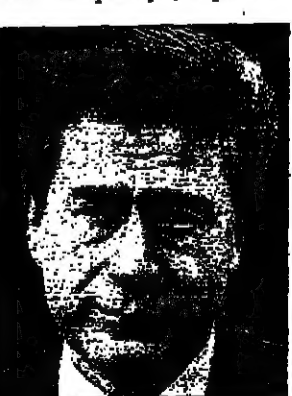
BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

TONY BANKS, one of the most humorous and boisterous voices in the Commons, has been brought onto the Government front bench as Minister of Sport. The job offer even took him by surprise.

Mr Banks, 54, is a left winger with a quick and often earthy wit that has served him as well in the stands at his beloved Chelsea FC as on the back benches at Westminster. Like the committed fan that he is he has never been reticent about taking a break from bawling out the opposition to have a dig at his own side.

The news of Mr Banks's appointment leaked out

because he had a camera crew filming him cooking pasta for a food programme when the call from Downing Street came. "I was completely gobsmacked. I didn't expect anything, certainly not this," he said. "I was phoned up and asked if I would like to be Minister for Sport. Having thought about it, I said yes. I was completely surprised."



Banks: "gobsmacked"

Mr Banks, former chairman of the now-defunct Greater London Council, had not had a frontbench opposition job since 1993.

In a recent interview he said that John Smith had said he would be a minister but his hopes died with him. "I believe in saying what you feel and the penalty for that is your political prospects are fairly marginal," he said.

Mr Banks has called Kenneth Clarke a "pot-bellied old soak". Margaret Thatcher a "poor, half mad old cow" and accused Prince William of "blood lust" when he shot his first stag. Neither has Tony Blair escaped his caustic words. During a debate on the Ten Minute Rule Bill Mr Banks said the chances of getting the Bill through were on a par with his chances of getting into Heaven. "Or into the Shadow Cabinet," said a wag. "Indeed," replied Mr Banks.

The snows of May banish the heatwave of spring

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT AND SHIRLEY ENGLISH

AFTER spending much of the weekend basking in the hottest weather of the year, millions could wake up today to an inch of snow. Temperatures which had hovered around 80F (27C) on Friday could plunge to 48F (9C) today, and the cold spell is expected to last until the end of the week. If snow falls

in London it will be the third time in 50 years that the capital has seen a snowfall in May - the last being in 1955. "We have had very warm air blowing up from Spain and now we will have really cold air from the Arctic," said a spokesman at the London Weather Centre.

The cold front moved down through Scotland and northern England yesterday bringing heavy rain and

atrocious driving conditions. Winds gusting up to 45mph carried snow and freezing showers across much of Scotland. Temperatures dropped to about 38F (3C) in Shetland, Sutherland and the Hebrides. Near Aviemore more than an inch of snow fell and chairlifts at the ski centre froze, although there was not enough snow for skiing. In the Lake District, police warned people to stay off the hills after

a holiday weekend in which two died and 11 others needed hospital treatment.

In the south, forecasters warned of snowfalls on higher ground such as the Chilterns, the Cotswolds and the Downs.

"Winter has come back with a vengeance," said an AA spokesman.

Forecast, page 24

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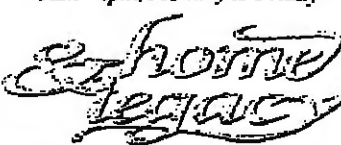
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Three boys feared drowned on coast

Bleached whale's whiff of the sea

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

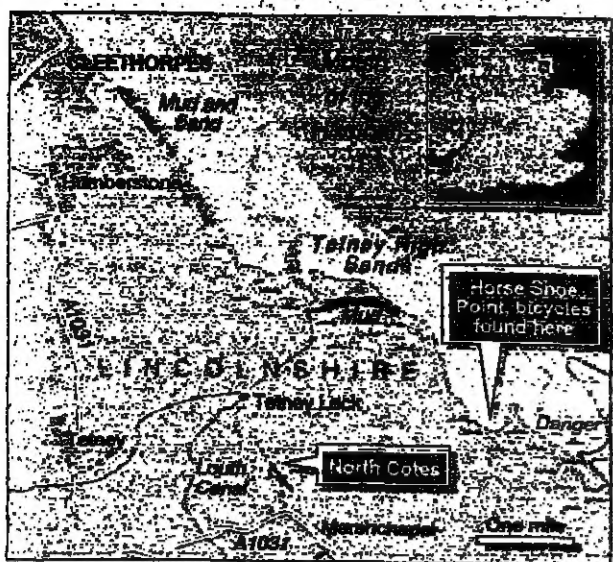
THE skeleton of Moby, the whale that died in the Firth of Forth, went on display yesterday after a mammoth clean-up using 100 boxes of Persil Automatic washing powder and copious amounts of bleach.

It took more than a month to clean the huge frame of the 38.5-tonne sperm whale. But as the 52ft-long display was laid out in the National Museum of Scotland, it was apparent that the curators' hard work had failed to prevent an unmistakably fishy aroma.

One of the first visitors, Scott Sine, 6, from Musselburgh, gave a quick assessment: "It's huge... and it smells a bit." A museum spokeswoman explained that the smell came from oils in the bones that had not been extracted to enhance preservation.

Moby died on March 31 on mudflats near the village of Airth. The body was taken to a landfill site where more than 150 bones were removed before burial. At the National Museums Research Centre, in Granton, they were "cooked" in huge vats of water and Persil for 12 hours before being bleached and scraped.

Photograph, page 24



Two still missing after rescuers find body of 11-year-old

By PAUL WILKINSON

THREE boys were feared dead last night after becoming trapped by the rapidly rising tide while exploring coastal marshes at the mouth of the Humber estuary. Rescuers found the body of Christopher Scott, 11, and hopes were fading for his friends, Nathan Sawyer, 9, and Ian Smye, who would have been 10 yesterday.

The search for the "inseparable" friends, from the Lincolnshire hamlet of North Coates, will resume this morning, but police said their chances of survival were slim. Detective Chief Inspector Paul Jones, of Lincolnshire Police, said: "The prospects are very grim. The longer the search goes on, the worse it gets."

The boys had spent Sunday among the isolated marshland round Horsehoe Point, four miles south of Cleethorpes. Mr Jones said: "I think they had gone out there to play, lost track of the time and didn't recognise when the tide was coming in. It rushes in like an express train and within 10 to 15 minutes the boys could have found themselves stranded on a small island. It is absolutely lethal."

"A lot of children of that age are not aware of the dangers of going down there because their brothers and sisters have always been there in the past. To them it is like an adventure playground."

Ian's father, Chris Smye, who lives with his wife, Andrea, and their three other

children, Bronwyn, Kayleigh and Luke, in a farmhouse near the coast, said: "I've got no idea what made them go out there. It's a terrible, treacherous place."

At one stage during the search for the boys, three coastguards got into difficulty and had to be airlifted to safety. Local people know the area as treacherous, with mud flats and sandbanks cut by scores of rivulets that drain the flat Lincolnshire countryside into the sea. It disappears twice a day under a tide that can rise as much as 30ft. In spite of the danger, the area is a magnet for bored youngsters with a taste for adventure. The three boys are thought to have been cut off on a ridge of sand called a wildback.

Valerie Scott, 50, who looked after her grandson Christopher with her husband James, 47, said: "I feel more for the other two parents. We've got Chris's body back. I'm sorry to say, but they haven't. We're just praying for a miracle: that the two boys saw Chris drown and are too scared to come home. The three boys were inseparable and went everywhere together. What's not to think in 11 just keep thinking he is going to come walking through the door."

Christopher's body was found at 1am yesterday by an RAF rescue helicopter, that had been brought in to assist 30 police and coastguards, who, with 150 local volunteers,



More than 150 local people joined police and rescue teams searching the mudflats and coastline where the boys had gone in search of adventure

had been searching since the alarm was raised on Sunday evening. The searchers also included RNLI inshore rescue teams and professionals from the International Rescue Service in Southwell, Nottinghamshire.

Mrs Scott said: "We used to warn them all the time about the dangers of going down there but lads are lads and they thought it was one big adventure."

The boys were last seen on the mudflats at about 1pm on Sunday. When Christopher failed to return by 6pm his grandfather, a food-process supervisor, went looking for them.

Mrs Scott said: "He looked at various places in the village but could not find them so went up to Horsehoe Point by chance and found the boys' bikes. Ian couldn't swim but Chris could, but when the tide comes in as quickly as it does, it doesn't matter how good a swimmer you are. I think they were out playing and got caught by the tide."



Nathan Sawyer: missing

Christopher Scott: dead

Ian Smye: missing

Explosive rat blamed for cottage fire

By TIM JONES

COUNTRY life may be wilder than anyone thought. A couple have been told that a £60,000 blaze at their rented cottage could have been caused by an exploding rat.

The fire destroyed the thatched roof and bedrooms of the 400-year-old cottage in Puddelock, near Attleborough, Norfolk, obliging Roger Bindell and his wife Sylvia, both 53, to move into a caravan. Experts employed by the insurers believe that a rat crawled into the roof and straw thatch to die after eating poison containing phosphorous. As the animal decomposed, they say, the phosphorous burst into flames on exposure to air.

Yesterday Mrs Bindell said: "It is almost something out of Monty Python. Until they came up with that idea, they thought the fire may have been started by a bird carrying a lit cigarette into the roof."

Detailed examination failed to find any obvious electrical or other faults. Mr Bindell said: "While one of the experts was outside, he noticed a rat scurrying along by the side of a small stream and made the suggestion. Although I had not put down poison, he said it was possible that a rat might have eaten some near by and then gone up into the roof."

David Smith, the Swiss-based owner of the cottage, refused to name the insurance company. He said: "The whole matter is very sensitive because they have just verbally admitted liability." Once the property has been repaired, the Bindells hope to buy it. They would rename it Phoenix Cottage.

GP barred by golf club over hole in one ear

By A STAFF REPORTER

A WELSH golf club has expelled a doctor who refused to remove a silver earring while playing. Dr Stephen Glascoe, 46, said he had worn an earring for more than 20 years without anyone objecting.

Officials of The Ridgeway Golf Course near Caerphilly, South Wales, told Dr Glascoe, who plays off an 18 handicap, that his earring was judged unacceptable by fellow golfers on the nine-hole course. "I was told that I would have to remove my earring if I wanted to continue as a member there," he said.

"I cannot understand why I am being banned now because I had even played some competitions at The Ridgeway without anyone mentioning it. My earring has never been a problem at other courses. When Tiger Woods won the US Masters a lot of people hoped it would help to end the image of golf as a sport riven with snobbery and prejudice. This shows there's still a long way to go."

Dr Glascoe, who has a surgery in Cardiff, joined the club last November. After his expulsion he was given a refund for the remaining five months of his membership subscription. Friends said he regularly wore the single ring in his left ear.

Larry Baynton, club captain at The Ridgeway, said Dr Glascoe had been the only member to refuse to abide by the club's dress code. "The other men who wear earrings have agreed to remove them when they are playing," he said. He said the decision to ban men wearing earrings on the greens had been taken by the committee representing the club's 200 members. Women were not affected by the ban.

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SAGA

Little boy with an eye for the big picture

Dalya Alberge on a talent fed by war and poverty

THE paintings grew out of civil war and poverty. They are meant to portray the big picture of life and death. The artist is aged 11.

The talents of the boy from Georgia in the former Soviet Union so impressed a London art dealer that he is devoting an exhibition to the prodigy. Beso Kazishvili, Roy Miles, who has a gallery on Bruton Street, said: "We have a possibility that we've found a genius."

The test may come when the works go on show from May 23 to June 6. Drawings will be priced at £200 to £300, and paintings at £700 to £800. Mr Miles wants some of the proceeds to pay for Beso to attend art school.

Beso, one of seven children, began drawing at the age of four, when Georgia was one of the richest parts of the Soviet empire. He has been so prolific that his oeuvre already extends to 3,000 works. He has worked with Indian ink, gouache,



Salvador Dali: fired Beso's imagination

watercolours and oil, and gives some of his latest paintings such titles as *Grief* and *The Light of Beauty*.

A recurring motif is an eye. He said: "I paint an eye because it sees everything. When there are wars and people are dying, the big eye becomes wicked. It protects kind people but if they become friends of evil, it pun-

ishes them too. That big eye is the God."

Musicians bloom early but child geniuses are rare in visual arts. Millais and Picasso were among the few who developed by their teens. Last year the art world viewed with scepticism a ten-year-old girl hailed as "the new Picasso": Alexandra Nechita, daughter of a Romanian refugee, was seen by many as primarily a copyist. Beso's imagination is said to have been fired by the surrealist Salvador Dali.

Mr Miles set about arranging an exhibition within hours of being shown the work. He said: "He paints from the heart. When a country has gone through such a brutal war, children mature early. His country has terrible problems. It is now impoverished."

The Georgian ambassador to London, Teimuraz Mamatsashvili, said: "He explains things which he should not know about."



Beso with his picture *The Eyes*. In the background is Roy Miles, who said: "We have a possibility that we've found a genius"

Cinema posters step back into the limelight

By JOHN SHAW

TWO posters that helped to attract cinema-goers 60 years ago are about to draw an audience just for themselves. Film buffs are expected to pay up to £9,000 each for the rare memorabilia in an auction of movie history.

The atmospheric images advertised *The 39 Steps*, widely considered Alfred Hitchcock's finest British film, and are the only known examples surviving from the 1935 production. One shows Robert Donat, the hero, hanging on to the outside doors of an express train as it thunders across the Forth Bridge.

Donat and Madeleine Carroll starred in the classic about a couple handcuffed together in a reach-for-me-and-stay story adapted from the thriller by John Buchan. The posters were discovered in a cinema abroad and are being sold anonymously at Christie's in South Kensington on May 19. They are considered important to collectors because there are no examples from Hitchcock's pre-war films, said Tony Nourmand, a consultant to the auction house.

Some of Hitchcock's later Hollywood classics are currently being shown on tele-

vision, and the posters on sale include films such as *To Catch A Thief* (1955), *Vertigo* (1958), and *Psycho* (1960).

The Hitchcock group leads an auction which is strong in glamour. Rita Hayworth, Columbia's leading star from the golden age of Hollywood, is represented by *Gilda* (1946), which established her as a postwar sex goddess. A French poster for the film is expected to make up to £3,000, but a highly sought-after Italian version is expected to fetch up to £7,000.

World cinema is represented by material from an earlier era. Two French posters for *Pandora's Box* (1929), a landmark silent film by G.W. Pabst and starring Louise Brooks, are expected to fetch up to £12,000.

Christie's saleroom in Old Brompton Road has become one of the main centres of a growing international market in vintage film material. The sale, the fourth, is expected to make more than £340,000.

Earlier this year, one of only two known posters for *The Mummy*, a Boris Karloff horror film from 1932, set an auction record of £277,000 at Sotheby's in New York.



They don't make posters like that any more: the last-known survivors from the original *39 Steps*

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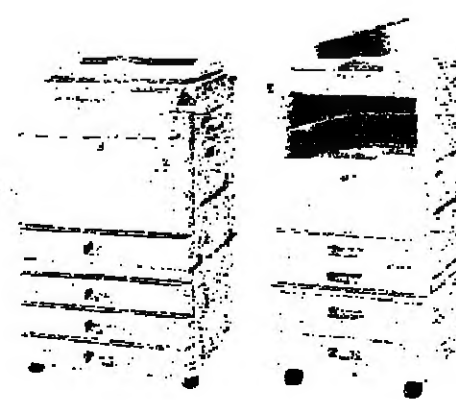
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Vets back demand for badger cull to save cattle from TB

By MICHAEL HORNSEY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

VETS have called for widespread culls of badgers to stop them spreading tuberculosis to cattle. It is the first time vets have backed demands by farmers for large-scale control of one of Britain's best protected animals.

The policy shift poses an early challenge for Jack Cunningham, the new Agriculture Minister. Labour argued in Opposition that even the limited killing now allowed was a waste of money and should be abandoned.

The British Veterinary Association, in a paper submitted to a committee investigating the link between badgers and bovine TB, said the disease was spreading rapidly and causing farmers unsustainable losses. It called for extensive culling in places where TB in cattle coincided with a high level of infection among the badger population.

"Until a more effective way of controlling the disease can

be found, extended and rigorous culling of badgers in new areas offers the best available control," the BVA said. "Any culling operation must include lactating sows."

In effect, the BVA is proposing a return to the strategy of the mid-Eighties, when all badgers within a certain distance of an infected farm were trapped and shot. Before that, they were gassed in their setts, a practice abandoned after a public outcry.

At present the Ministry of Agriculture shoots only those badgers that can be trapped on farms that have had an outbreak of cattle TB. Badgers that live off the farm, or even on parts of the farm not used by the infected cattle, are left alone. Lactating sows are also spared on the ground that it would be cruel to leave cubs motherless.

John Sterry, a vet from Bristol who represents the BVA on the Government's

consultative panel on badgers, said: "In southwest England bovine TB is now probably the most serious livestock problem. BSE is fading away, but TB is out of control while the animals causing it are protected by law."

There is still no scientific proof of a direct link between a growing badger population and the increase in cattle TB, but vets are worried by the spread of the disease to counties, such as Staffordshire, outside the main area of infection in the South West. With no prospect of a reliable cattle vaccine for another ten years, they are under pressure from farmers to take a stronger line.

Infected cattle are slaughtered, and farmers are paid 75 per cent of their value by the Government, but can still lose thousands of pounds. Consumers are protected by pasteurisation of milk.

The number of cattle herds



Badgers may be trapped and shot because they are blamed by farmers for spreading TB among cattle herds

infected with TB rose from 126 in 1991 to 449 in 1995, the latest year for which there are reliable figures, with the cattle slaughtered each year rising from 1,626 to 3,599. Of the 449 outbreaks, 316 were in Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Dorset, Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Avon, Shropshire and Hereford and Worcester. This is also where about a third of the estimated 250,000 badgers

in Britain live. Farmers are convinced there is a correlation between the abandonment of tougher badger culling policies in the past and the trend in the incidence of cattle TB, which declined in the late 1970s and early 1980s and then started to rise sharply.

But Professor Stephen Harris, of Bristol University's school of biological sciences,

who is carrying out a badger census commissioned by the Conservative Government, says there is scant evidence that the level of TB in cattle has been influenced in any way by culling.

"In Northern Ireland, where no kind of badger control has ever been practised, the incidence of bovine TB since 1975 has been almost identical with the trend in

southwest England," he said. "So we have to look for other environmental factors."

Professor Harris believes a run of warm and quite wet springs in recent years is the most likely reason for the rising trend in bovine TB. It has promoted good spring grass growth, creating exactly the right conditions for the survival on pasture of TB bacilli.

Dead fish linked to industrial discharge

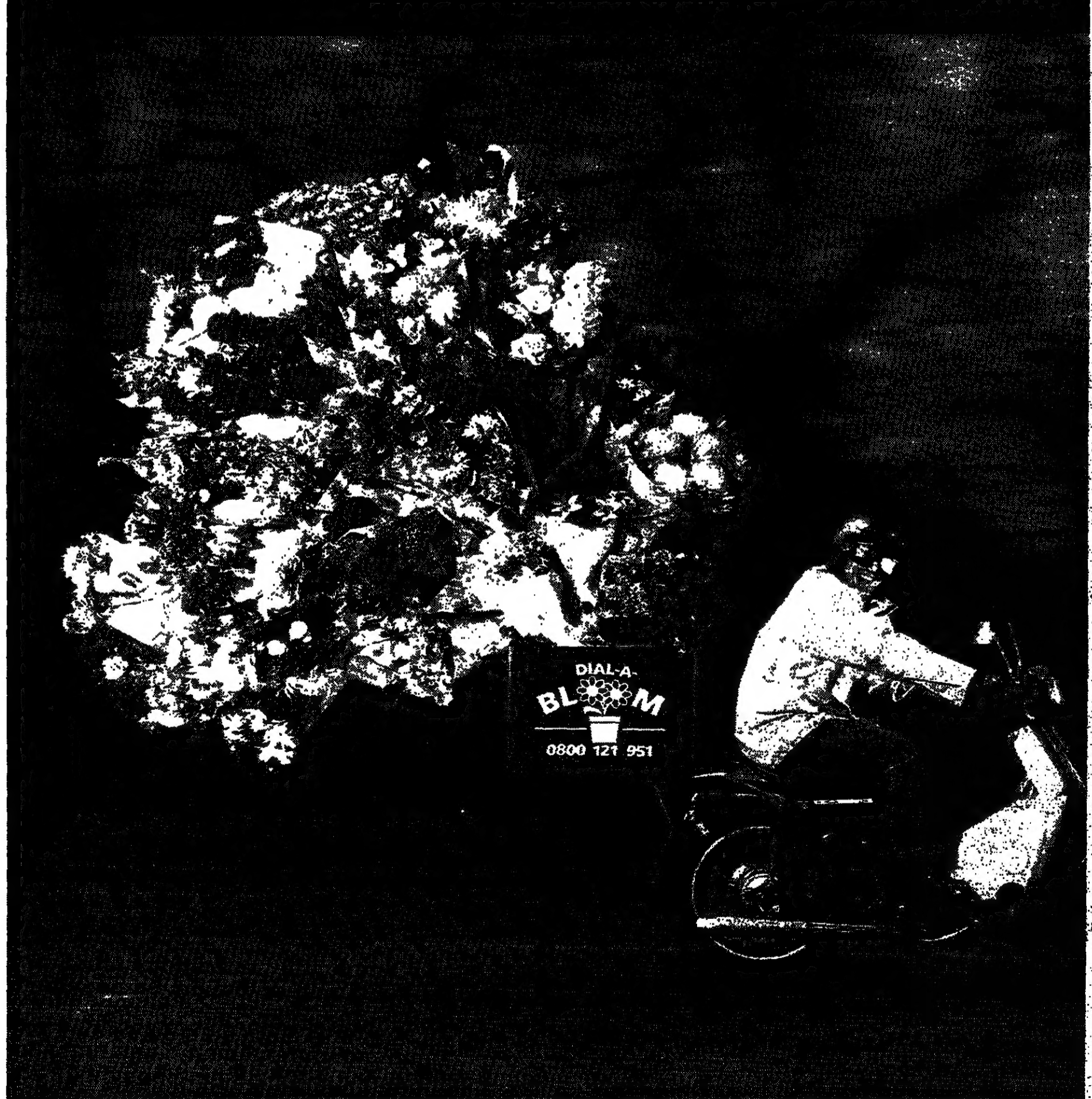
By MICHAEL HORNSEY

THOUSANDS of flounders and chers have been killed in the Medway estuary in Kent. Industrial plants are suspected of being the source of the contamination.

The fish were found on a five-mile stretch of the estuary between New Hythe and Wrotham on Sunday afternoon. "At least 5,000, and probably many thousands more, have been killed. We are treating it as a Category One incident - the most serious," said Ray Kemp, an Environment Agency spokesman.

"The pollutant is colourless and odourless and has not yet been identified. Samples of fish and water have been sent away for analysis. One possibility is that an industrial plant discharged water that was too hot into the river, which suffocated the fish by reducing the oxygen level."

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Glasgow Bible puts the Auld into Testament

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

IT WAS a long time ago, right enough — thousands of years since. There was nuthin' whaur' the earth is the now — absolutely nuthin' at aw. "Weel noo," God says, "wee himsel' wan day, 'I'll fix a wee bit dod o' land — doon there."

So begins the Bible in Glaswegian, the word according to Jamie Stuart, an elder at High Carny Church.

In "The Auld Testament", God makes folk "tae look like himsel' — man an' wumman thegither". He beams with gladness at his work-on, the seventh day, when "the Almighty wis due for a wee rest". Noah gathers together "pairs o' aw the birds an' beasts". Joseph's coat of many colours becomes a "flastie janker", and his brothers think him a "real blether, right enough".

Sadly, however, the account of Noah's drunkenness is omitted from the book, which appears this week courtesy of St Andrew Press, the publishing arm of the Church of Scotland. However, the tale of Sodom and Gomorrah is included. "Hey there, Mister Lot — gaun' send oot them

two boys," the Sodomites sneer. "We want the gae pally wi' them!"

The Ten Commandments come down from Heaven as "nae murderin, nae theivin, nae lyin, stick fast tae yer ain partner, and nae greedie habbit". David "fichter" Goliath, described as "an enormous sodger". The Israelites were "gobsmacked". "Did this wee nyaff ken whit he was sayin'?"

The Bible in Glaswegian includes the bestselling Glaswegian New Testament, produced by Mr Stuart, a former actor, in 1992. He was inspired to write it after he heard Alec McCowen deliver his acclaimed one-man drama of Mark's gospel at the Edinburgh Festival.

The 139-page book, which contains a selection of the best Bible stories, is dedicated to the late Ruth Campbell, the 21-year-old daughter of John Campbell, a Church of Scotland minister. She died in a road accident last year in America, where she had been working with a local church.

□ A Glasgow Bible (St Andrew Press, published May 8; £6.50)

Circle dates from before Stonehenge

A PREHISTORIC monument that pre-dates Stonehenge by 800 years has been discovered beneath the fields of Northumberland.

Radio carbon dating of organic remains recovered from the henge — a circular monument formed by an outer bank and an inner ditch — suggests it was constructed and used around 2,600 BC.

Clive Waddington, director of the excavations in the Milfield Basin, near Wooler, described the find as "phenomenal". "We know the site is 6,000 years old, making it the oldest henge ever found in Britain," he said.

The henge is a prehistoric site, 22m in diameter, with a 3m ditch inside it from which the building material was quarried.

red. A road has been traced running through the henge and leading to a fording point on the River Till.

Mr Waddington, 26, believes the henge would have been used as a place of worship and to overwinter livestock. He said: "We were doing a much wider study of the area and came across this henge. When we saw it from the air, there was even stronger and more compelling evidence of what it was."

"It would have taken hundreds of people with their stone tools to build it and would have been a huge undertaking."

The drove road shows that cattle and pigs were herded into the henge for wintering from the sandstone uplands across the River Till.

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Change in rules puts advisers in policy spotlight

By Valerie Elliott
Whitehall Editor

SENIOR civil servants could soon become as familiar as their political masters in a Labour strategy to free government officials to speak on policy.

David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, has taken a lead in authorising his senior officials and advisers to speak out on policy matters and the innovation is expected to be taken up across Whitehall.

Advisers are still being appointed by Tony Blair's Cabinet, but the new culture was demonstrated yesterday when Professor Michael Barber, former Dean at London University's Institute of Education, spoke on radio about his new post as adviser to Mr Blunkett.

The most senior appointments have gone to Jonathan Powell, the chief of staff at Downing Street, and Alastair Campbell, the No 10 press secretary. Among names being banded about for powerful new posts are Robert Hazell, former head of the constitution unit, and Andrew Adonis, a columnist for the Observer.

The shift will also unleash Michael Richard, Mr Blunkett's innovative Permanent Secretary, plus senior policy directors and other advisers. While ministers will retain the prime role on policy-making, Mr Blunkett believes that, by allowing officials to adopt a high profile on policy matters, they will be able to communicate more effectively with the professions.

All advisers have to be vetted and given specific clearance for different levels of classified documents. However, Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary, has allowed a number of ministers to bring in their former aides immediately, with formalities to be arranged later.

A special order was approved by the Privy Council to allow Mr Powell and Mr Campbell to carry out executive functions in government. Under normal rules, advisers are not allowed to run departments or to work in a uniquely political context. The special order has given them unparalleled powers in Whitehall.

Other appointees, however, must operate within the normal Civil Service rules. Tim Allan and Hilary Coffman, former press officers to Mr Blair who have been appointed as advisers in the Downing Street press office, must work on a non-partisan basis.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, has moved a number of his former team to the Treasury. Ed Balls is expected to be his economics adviser, while Charlie Whelan and Ed Milliband will be his daily troubleshooters. Sue Nye will run his diary.

Robin Cook has transported Andrew Hood and David Clark to the Foreign Office and, at the Home Office, Jack Straw has appointed Norman Warner and Ed Owen, his former parliamentary aide.

Left in the cold as Blair has whip hand over pragmatic intake of MPs

Byron Criddle examines the maths factor dominating control of both parties in the House

TONY BLAIR has little to fear from the new Parliamentary Labour Party despite the flood of unexpectedly elected MPs who benefited from the massive swing away from the Tories.

According to a rough analysis of Labour's 418 MPs, some 40 per cent are modernising Blairites. A further 40 per cent are pragmatic traditionalists, many of whom are women and are former councillors who are likely to remain loyal to the party leader even though some have track records on the left of the party.

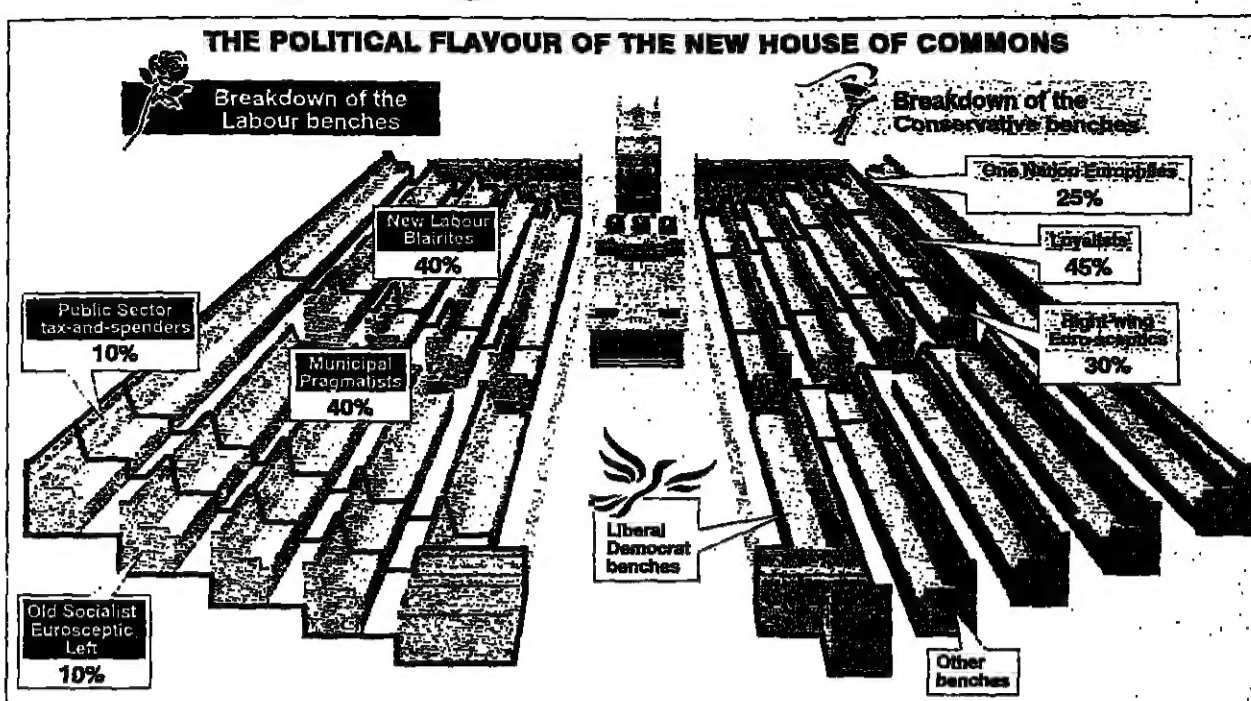
Only 10 per cent can be described as "tax and spenders" from the public sector. A similar number broadly represent the old Socialist Left, hostile to Europe.

Before the election, Labour insiders envisaged a new intake of some 125 MPs to replace those retiring and to occupy the key seats needed for a working majority. Twenty per cent of these were expected to be old Labour leftwingers. The landslide has added a further 60 names to the anticipated intake, some of whom are less well-known.

Certain demographic hallmarks stamp the phalanx of new Labour MPs. Most attended state schools, red-brick universities or polytechnics, worked in the public or voluntary sector, and were involved in local government. The appearance is given of a large tax-and-spend lobby.

But for the two thirds who have been local politicians, the experience of operating within spending constraints, managing and cutting huge budgets, working with the private sector and contracting-out has forged a new culture.

Louise Ellman (Liverpool Riverside) has a CV laden with entrepreneurial initiatives as leader of Lancashire County Council. Graham Stringer (Manchester Blackley) is a former leader of



Manchester council but now, as chairman of Manchester airport, an advocate of its second runway. He belies his Bennite past by admitting "economic policies have moved to the right but that town halls, given spending constraints, would have been mad to refuse partnership agreements with the private sector and Europe".

Tony Colman (Putney), a millionaire businessman, as leader of Merton council, is strong on public and private sector partnerships, local government finance and the "green agenda" more commonly associated with Liberal Democrat councils.

As for the rank-and-file councillors conditioned to habits of discipline, the Whips' Office need look no further than Malcolm Savidge (Aberdeen North) for the sort of affable loyalist they want. All these ambitious municipal politicians, who in the local years had to mark time, are finally — in their mid-to-late forties — reaching Westminster, anxious to stay for more than five years.

None of this precludes many having leftwing records as professional politicians whose careers began in activism 20 years ago. Jim Fitzpatrick (Purley & Canning Town) and Ian Gibson (Norwich North) were members of the Socialist Workers' Party. Judy Mallaber (Amber Valley) was in the Communist Party. John McDonnell (Hayes & Harlington) was more leftwing than Ken Livingstone. Charlotte Atkins (Stafford-

shire Moorlands), whose father Ron Atkins MP was a leftwing thorn in the side of the 1966-70 Wilson government, co-wrote with Chris Mullin the activists' manual for deselecting moderate Labour MPs. Yet by 1990 she herself was being parachuted by Walworth Road into the Eastbourne by-election in place of a candidate who had not paid the poll tax.

By 1997, Ian Gibson was

accepting "hard realism" and acknowledging that "people want to win". Siobhain McDonagh (Mitcham & Morden) earned her Blairite spurs in her denunciation of Arthur Scargill's attempt to reopen the Clause Four issue at the 1995 conference.

Yet Ms McDonagh, like many others, does sound a traditionalist note on education, notably in defending the comprehensive principle, and

it may be that the traditional prominence of teachers in the new intake will preclude too much Blairite pragmatism of the sort favoured by the economist Ruth Kelly (Bolton West). Ms Kelly, educated at Westminster School and Oxford, "doesn't have a problem with opted-out schools" and wants the state sector to be more attractive to the middle classes.

The initial Blairite project is expected to channel radicalism into cost-free areas such as constitutional reform, homosexual rights, blood-sport bans and gender-related reforms, and this may well suffice for such old Labourites as David Chaytor (Bury North) who favours a reduced monarchy.

Then there are the Cryers. Ann (Keighley) and son John (Hornchurch), who are chips off the late Bob Cryer's block, and the unexpected Claire Curtis-Tansley (Croydon) who comes with a leftwing reputation.

Most of the 65 new women have risen through the Labour Women's Network and are known as much for a feminist focus as anything else. Diana Organ (Forest of Dean) talks of "altering the public perception of the Labour Party as no longer made up of working-class, middle-aged men". Here the agenda is distinct to change the culture by moving from confrontational to consensual politics. This required more than 100 women MPs in a five-year parliament. Marginal seats (in which the bulk of the



New Labour: Louise Ellman and Graham Stringer



Old Labour: Ian Gibson and Charlotte Atkins

Centrists hold the key in Tory leadership battle

CANDIDATES in the Tory leadership contest face a tough battle to win the support of centrist MPs who form the largest group of Conservatives left in Parliament after the party's landslide defeat.

According to rough analysis of the 165-strong Tory rump, about 45 per cent can be described as traditional Tories who will be loyal to whoever replaces John Major as party leader. While most are cautious towards Europe, they are not obsessively pro or anti. About 30 per cent can be

broadly categorised as hardline right-wing Eurosceptics, while 25 per cent are one-nation Europeans.

The Conservatives have 41 new MPs, just a quarter of the party's parliamentary rump of 165. On the issue most salient for the party's unity, 22 of the 41 pronounced against the single European currency, or were opposed to it in tone without necessarily voicing an intention. This is a higher proportion than amongst the returning MPs,

where 38 took up similar positions. These figures may understate the Eurosceptic element, as loyalists were constrained by Mr Major's attempt to hold the line to "negotiate and see".

The presence among the Eurosceptics of David Prior (North Norfolk), son of Lord Prior, further serves to confirm the minority status of the one-nation tradition in the party. Only two of the new intake appear to embrace that strand unequivocally: Shaun Woodward

(Witney) and Damian Green (Ashford).

But many of the new intake had to respond to the euro question at a time when the party was desperately clutching at driftwood and, in the calmer waters after resolution of the leadership question, the parliamentary rump may come to exhibit a different orthodoxy.

The Conservative leadership is likely to go to a centrist figure rather than to polar opposites such as John Redwood or Kenneth Clarke. Given

that the largest group of Conservative MPs are agnostic on the issue of a single currency, it is most unlikely that they will opt for a leader who rules out the option completely.

The unity candidates appear to be William Hague and, further right, Peter Lilley. Mr Hague is probably too young but otherwise is the Tory answer to Harold Wilson, both in accent and elusiveness. Mr Lilley appears too tense. In reality, they need Chris Patten to overturn the landslide in 2002.



Morgan: spreading the Blair message

The 'fixer' helping to keep party at peace

By Jill Sherman

TONY BLAIR has appointed Sally Morgan, a party and union fixer, as his political secretary to try to avoid damaging rifts that have troubled past Labour administrations.

Ms Morgan, 37, a keen moderniser, has worked in his office since 1994, and will now head the political unit at No 10 to ensure smooth communications between the Government and the party. Her job will be to get Mr Blair's message across to the party organisation and trade unions.

She has spent most of the past few years doing that job in Opposition, and is regarded as a highly skilled operator who ensured that several potentially close votes at party conferences went in the leadership's favour. She also helped Neil Kinnock to rid the party of Militant in the 1980s.

A former teacher, Ms Morgan has worked for the party since 1985, becoming head of campaigns at party headquarters before moving to Mr Blair's office after he became leader. She will work closely with Tom Sawyer, the party's general secretary, and with Bruce Grocott, Mr Blair's parliamentary aide.

Salmond mocks new Seats post

By Shirley English

DONALD DEWAR, the Secretary of State for Scotland, announced yesterday that the new Scottish Office team would include one extra post to help to tackle devolution. Henry McLeish will be Minister of State with responsibility for home affairs and devolution. Brian Wilson will be Minister of State for education and industry. Malcolm Chisholm becomes Minister for local government and transport while Sam Galbraith is Minister for health and the arts.

Alex Salmond, the leader of the Scottish Nationalists, immediately attacked the appointments of Mr Wilson and Mr Chisholm, who had campaigned against devolution in 1979, as "quite extraordinary". Mr Wilson was "the abominable creature of 1979" whose appointment would send a message through the House that the government had said

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Old and new side by side in full ministerial line-up

BY JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

GORDON BROWN and John Prescott ensured yesterday that they got the teams they wanted when the Prime Minister announced the final details of his Government.

Tony Blair's full ministerial list includes several more modernisers but also a generous helping of left-wing and old-Labour appointments, notably Tony Banks, who becomes Sports Minister.

As expected, Alan Howarth, the Tory defector, gets his reward with a job as junior education minister. He had held higher office while serving with the Conservative Government but Mr Blair was reluctant to promote him too quickly to avoid resentment in the party.

Mr Banks, a left-wing campaigner for animal rights, and Chelsea supporter, is one of the most surprising appointments. The MP for West Ham has not held a frontbench job since 1993, when he was shadow London and transport spokesman.

Mr Blair's decision to move him into the sports job shows that he has no intention of

jeopardising the Left in government.

Another key appointment goes to Dawn Primarolo, the left-wing MP for Bristol South, who becomes Financial Secretary to the Treasury.

Ms Primarolo, 43, was an active member of the left-wing Campaign Group and a close friend of Tony Benn.

Her new post, often seen as a stepping stone to the Cabinet, signals Mr Brown's confidence that she has discarded her "tax and spend" baggage.

The telegraphic, sharp Commons performer has worked with Mr Brown since 1994, latterly in the post as shadow financial secretary.

Mr Brown has brought two of his shadow treasury team into government. Ms Primarolo and Alistair Darling, chief secretary to the Treasury, Geoffrey Robinson, who was appointed Paymaster General, a post which has gone back to the Treasury, is also a close friend of Mr Brown's.

So too is Helen Liddell, former Scottish Party general secretary, who was close to the



Howarth: reward for defection

late John Smith and took over his Monksland East seat after his death in 1994.

Mr Prescott has also rewarded his friends by packing his new super Transport and Environment Ministry with loyalists, many of whom have had difficulty coming to terms with New Labour and Blairism.

Richard Caborn, his campaign manager for the Labour leadership, becomes Mr Prescott's number two and Hilary

Armstrong, a former PPS to John Smith, is another minister of state. The other junior ministers include Angela Eagle and Glenda Jackson, both leftwingers.

Blairites also got their just rewards. Tessa Jowell, the arch moderniser, becomes number two at the department of health, where she is likely to quickly outshine Frank Dobson, her old-Labour boss.

Stephen Byers, another ally of Mr Blair, becomes David Blunkett's deputy at education, responsible for raising standards in schools.

Baroness Blackstone, another moderniser, becomes minister for higher education, taking over the slot vacated by Bryan Davies, who failed to find a seat in time for the general election.

Elizabeth Symons, former general secretary of the First Division Association of civil servants, lends a Blairite touch to the Foreign Office, where she becomes a minister. She will be joined by Derek Fatchett and Tony Lloyd, both of whom are regarded as leftwingers and would have been handpicked by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary.



Joining Brown's team: Dawn Primarolo, left, and Helen Liddell outside the Treasury yesterday

FULL LIST OF MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS FROM THE COMMONS

Stephen Byers, Education Minister
Tessa Jowell, Health Minister
Alan Milburn, Home Office Minister
Alan Michael, Home Office Minister
Joyce Quin, Home Office Minister
Derek Fatchett, Foreign Office Minister
Tony Lloyd, Foreign Office Minister
Adam Ingram, Northern Ireland Minister
Paul Murphy, Northern Ireland Minister
Brian Wilson, Scottish Office Minister
Henry McLachlan, Scottish Office Minister
John Field, Defence Minister
Ian McCartney, Trade Minister
John Birt, Trade Minister
Richard Caborn, Environment and Transport Minister
Geoff Hoon, Under-Secretary of State in the Lord Chancellor's Department

Hilary Armstrong, Environment and Transport Minister
Dawn Primarolo, Financial Secretary
Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary
Nigel Giffitts, Under-Secretary of State in DTI
Barbara Roche, Under-Secretary of State in DTI
Nick Raynsford, Under-Secretary of State for Environment and Transport
Glenda Jackson, Under-Secretary of State for Environment and Transport
Angela Eagle, Under-Secretary of State for Environment and Transport
Keith Bradley, Under-Secretary of State for Social Security
John Denham, Under-Secretary of State for Social Security
Sam Galbraith, Under-Secretary of State at Scottish Office
Malcolm Chisholm, Under-Secretary of State at Scottish Office



Tessa Blackstone, 54, Minister for Higher Education. Baroness Blackstone is Master of Birkbeck College and only the second appointment from the House of Lords. An authority on further and higher education, she has written on education and social policy. She helped to rally the intellectual Left and in 1988 formed the independent Institute for Public Policy Research.



Derek Fatchett, 51, Minister of State at the Foreign Office. On the Shadow Foreign Office team from 1994 to 1997. MP for Leeds Central since 1983. Educated at Birmingham University and the LSE. Has held several key Labour frontbench positions, speaking on education, employment, training, trade and industry, defence and foreign affairs.



Peter Hain, 47, Under-Secretary of State at the Welsh Office. MP for Neath since 1991. His activist past includes leadership of the Young Liberals, anti-apartheid campaigns, membership of CND, the Fabians and the Anti-Nazi League, and sitting on the board of directors for the left-wing Tribune newspaper. Never regarded as a Blairite.



Angela Eagle, 36, Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Transport. A bright left-winger destined for fame. Would shrink from being described as a Blairite and is seen as a Prescott appointee. MP for Wallasey since 1992, she was a member of a number of Commons select committees before becoming a Labour whip in 1996. Chairman of the Tribune group.



Joyce Quin, 52, Home Office Minister of State. Was tipped as minister for Europe, but considered too pro-European. Spent ten years in Brussels as a Labour Euro-MP for Tyne and Wear, and then shadowed the job in Opposition in 1993. MP for Gateshead since 1987. Educated at Newcastle and London universities, and formerly a lecturer in French and politics.



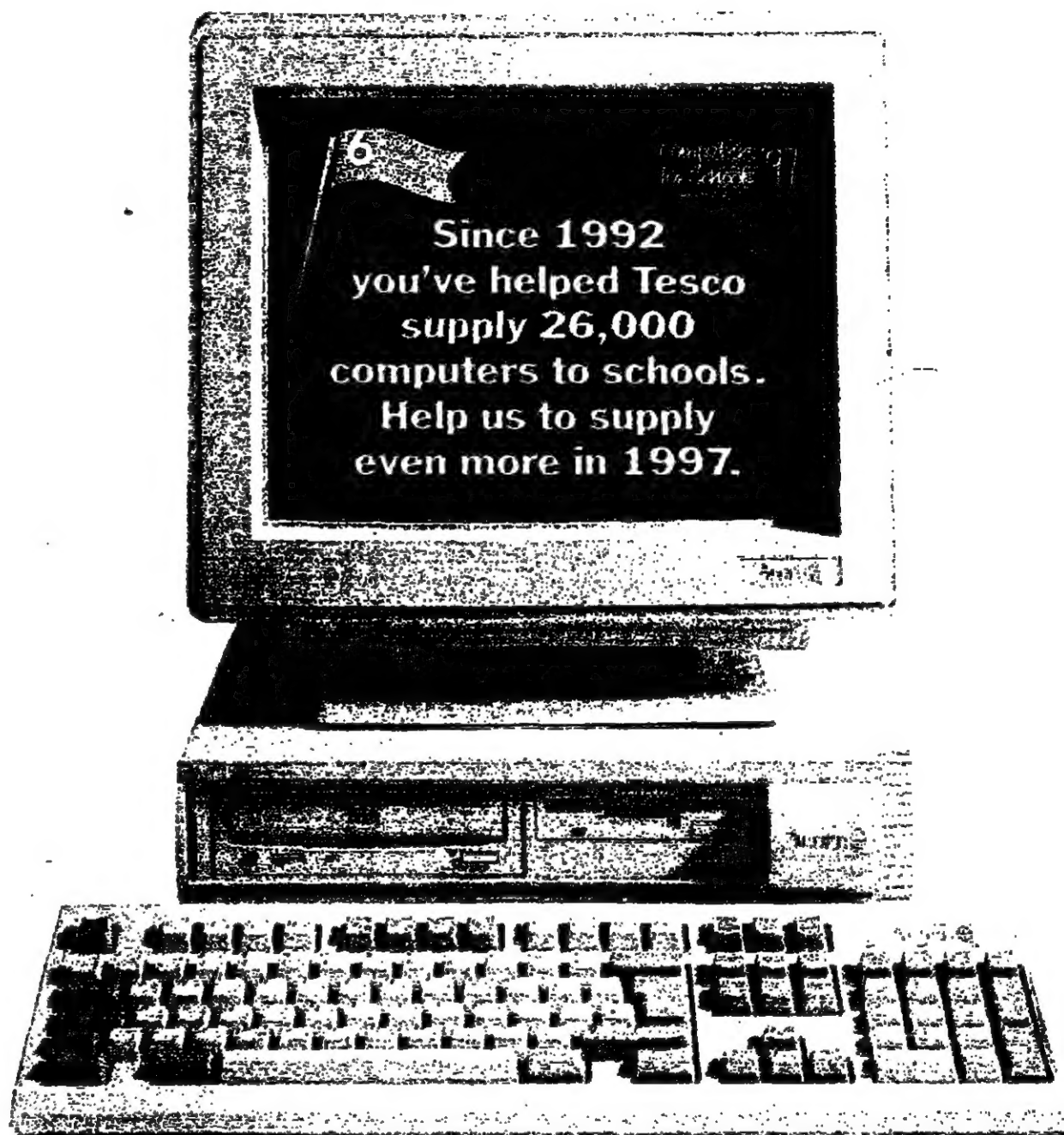
Richard Caborn, 53, Minister of State for Environment and Transport (deputy to Prescott, whose leadership campaign he led). Old Labour with a sense of humour. An MEP 1979-84, MP for Sheffield Central since 1983. Began working life as engineering apprentice and is a former convenor of shop stewards and vice-president of Sheffield Trades Council.



Geoff Hoon, 43, Under-Secretary of State at the Lord Chancellor's Office. Bright moderniser instrumental in building links between business and new Labour while opposition spokesman at Trade and Industry. MP for Ashfield, an opposition whip and an MEP for Derbyshire from 1984-94, he is an enthusiastic pro-European.



Hilary Armstrong, 51, Minister of State for Environment. Former PPS to the late John Smith. A likeable and respected moderate, instrumental in securing union support for one-member one-vote reforms in 1993. MP for Durham North West since 1987, number two on environment since 1995. Former lecturer in community and youth work.



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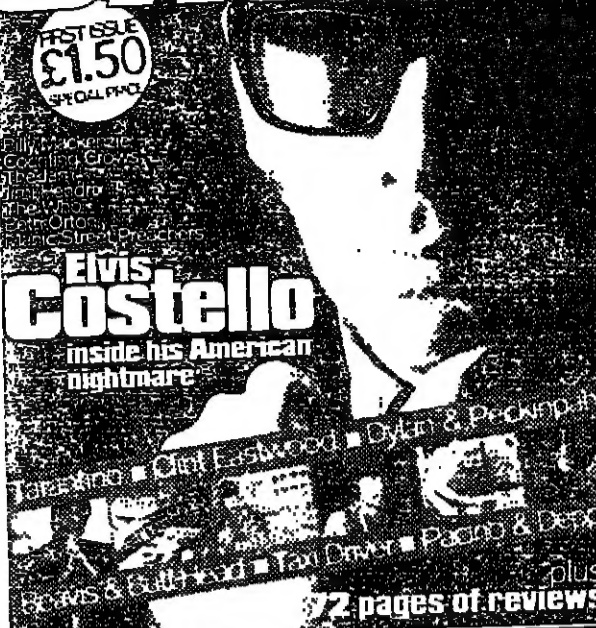
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Study shows early marrow transplant is answer to immune deficiency Cure found for 'bubble boy' disease

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

BABIES born without an immune system, and prey to every passing infection, can be cured if the condition is detected quickly, an American study has shown.

The rare condition is known as "bubble boy" disease, because without treatment its victims can be protected from infection only by living inside a plastic bubble. It used to be a death sentence, although today many children are saved by bone-marrow transplants. However, the number could be higher still if the condition could be detected earlier and a transplant carried out within three months of birth, according to Rebecca Buckley of Duke University Medical Centre in Durham, North Carolina.

More than 90 per cent of babies born with the disorder could be given a healthy immune system if treated promptly, she said. It is not even necessary to find a perfect match: bone marrow from either parent is nearly as good.

The results of a 15-year study at Duke of 79 children with the condition was presented at the weekend at the annual conference of the American Pediatrics Society/Society for Pediatric Research. Dr Buckley said: "This once fatal disease should now be seen as a pediatric emergency, a condition that needs immediate diagnosis and treatment. Essentially, every baby with SCID could be cured if diagnosed early enough."

Babies with the condition suffer from a variety of genetic defects that leave their immune cells unable to fight off infections. It is very rare, occurring once in every half a million to a million births. Britain has fewer than a dozen cases a year, David Walters, Secretary-General of the Primary Immunodeficiency Association, said.

Dr Buckley said that routine testing of white blood cell count in newborn babies would pick up SCID sufferers and enable them to be cured. If the condition was not discovered until later, treatment could still be successful but was likely to be more prolonged and expensive. "A simple blood test could allow us to treat, and most likely cure, SCID in a child for as little as \$25,000 (£15,600)," she said.

"If found later, less effective treatment can run into the millions." With the mother available as a marrow donor, the transplant can be done in the first few days of the baby's life. The baby can be treated in a day or as an out-patient.

The Duke team has also found that transplants can be done without chemotherapy. Many doctors give chemotherapy because they are following protocols originally developed for cancer treatment. But it is

not necessary in children with SCID because they have no immune system cells to attack and destroy the donor marrow.

Of the 79 SCID patients treated at Duke between 1982 and January 1997, 78 per cent have survived, including all 12 who had exactly matched transplants. Seventy five per cent of those given marrow from a parent have survived.

The results for those diagnosed early are even better. Of 18 babies identified at birth or before because of a family history of the condition, all but one have survived. The oldest is 15. In this group, all of whom had a transplant within three months, there is no difference in outcome between perfectly matched transplants and those that came from a parent.

Mr Walters said that British experience of marrow transplants was similar, but the problem remained late diagnosis of the condition, or the failure to diagnose it at all. "The key is making doctors think about the possibility of SCID early in a baby's life," he said. A routine blood test of every baby would certainly detect the condition, but would be very expensive.



Mark and Ann Vincent playing with a healthy Owen, who was diagnosed at seven months and had a transplant six months later

Baby diagnosed at seven months must be kept under close watch

WHEN Owen Vincent was born in August 1994, he appeared to be a normal baby. However, by Christmas he was starting to refuse food and fluids and his condition was worrying his parents.

After four GPs had reassured her that nothing was wrong, Ann Vincent declared that enough was enough and took Owen to Lewisham Hospital in southeast London. He was there until March before being diagnosed as suffering from SCID, and was then transferred to Great Ormond Street Hospital.

"By this time he had double pneumonia and was very ill," Mark Vincent, of Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, said. "But by June a matched donor had been found, and he had the bone marrow transplant in September, when he was just over a year old. He was given chemotherapy first." The



Owen in an oxygen chamber

transplant worked, and Owen is now a healthy boy. But because of his medical history, his parents have to make tremendous efforts to avoid infections. "Our friends know not to come and visit us if they have even the suspicion of a

cough or a cold," Mr Vincent said. "We have also been told to avoid taking him to swimming baths, and when we asked recently if it was safe to have a dog, we were advised to wait a bit. It comes down to being sensible."

Despite their efforts, scares are not unknown. Owen recently developed septicaemia and had to spend time in hospital. "Because of what he's been through, he was kept in longer than another baby would have been," Mr Vincent said. "But it turned out the infection was nothing to do with his condition, and he's better now."

Because the condition is genetic, Mr and Mrs Vincent are uncertain whether to have more children. "It's roulette, isn't it?" Mr Vincent said. If they were to have another affected child, it would at least be detected earlier, which would make treatment easier.

Research eases cancer fear in sterilisation



DR THOMAS STUTAFORD

RECENT research from the United States, published in the American Journal of Epidemiology, provides some reassuring news for men and women who have been surgically sterilised. Vasectomy was not shown to increase the chance of developing cancer of the prostate unless the man had a family history of the cancer. In women, sterilisation by tubal ligation was clearly shown to reduce the risk of cancer of the ovary.

Family planning by sterilisation, whether of the man or woman, is now the chosen method of contraception by a third of American couples. The proportion is rather less in Britain but it is becoming increasingly popular among women over 35 reluctant to use the Pill.

There are disadvantages to sterilisation in both sexes. The man who has the vasectomy may develop a haematoma, severe and painful bruising, or a sperm granuloma, a chronic, painful inflammatory lump which may persist for months, and is caused by sperm leakage.

Nor is anyone yet certain whether the production of antibodies to sperm, which usually happens after a vasectomy, might not cause other medical problems: some animal studies, for instance, have associated them with cardiovascular disease in later life.

Nor is it certain that a vasectomy will not reduce sexual prowess in older age. Above all, there have been several reports that it could increase the risk of prostate cancer — there have been 14 studies of a possible link. These have given diverse results but the majority clear vasectomy of increasing the risk of malignant change. This latest report is mainly

reassuring but the statistics still show a possible association between vasectomy and cancer of the prostate, but only in those men with a family history of the disease — which is more common than often realised.

The objection to female sterilisation is usually on the ground that it is a more complex operation, as it involves intra-peritoneal surgery. Although the incision is small, the surgeon needs to rummage around in the inner recesses of the abdomen and pelvis. The concept has become established that for a man to have a vasectomy, thereby sparing the woman the problems of sterilisation, is a fundamental but costly gesture of devotion.

A disadvantage of female sterilisation, rarely mentioned, is that it changes the menstrual pattern in an appreciable minority of women. Some have lighter periods thereafter, others heavier. A possible beneficial effect of this phenomenon, presumed to be the result of interference with ovarian function, has now been revealed by the US National Cancer Study, which has been following the health of 1.2 million Americans since 1982. Research workers report that even when every statistically confounding factor has been removed, tubal sterilisation appreciably decreases the incidence of cancer of the ovary.

The results are particularly important, as any comparatively simple procedure which would solve the contraceptive problems of women in their thirties, and lessen by about a third the risk of developing a cancer which is as dangerous as it is difficult to diagnose, would be a great advance.

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Navy on course for military removal

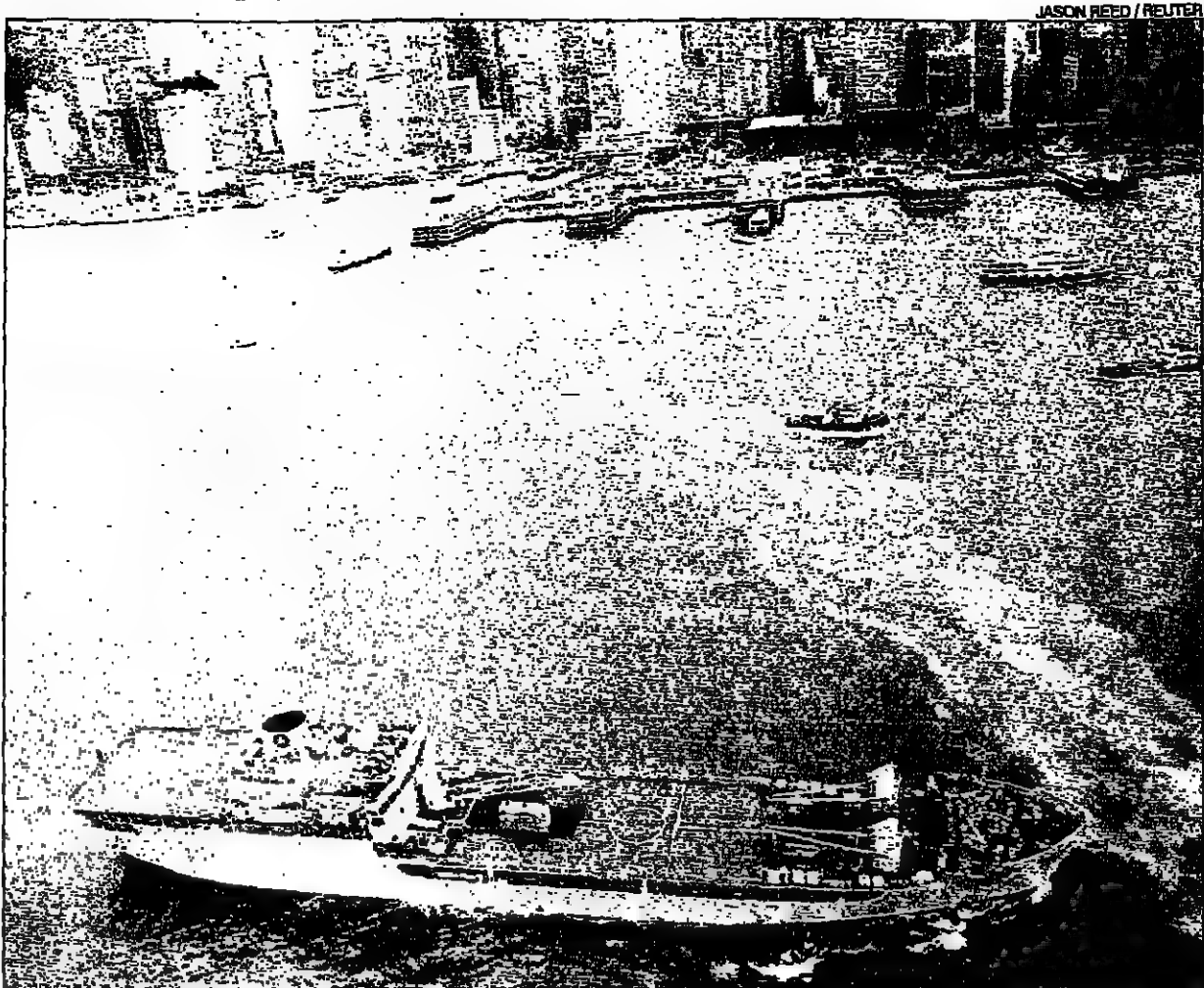
FROM CATHERINE FIELD
IN HONG KONG

A ROYAL NAVY vessel arrived in Hong Kong yesterday to take away the last of Britain's military equipment from the territory.

The Royal Fleet Auxiliary ship *Sir Percival* will be part of a British military escort of five vessels for the Royal Yacht *Britannia* when she leaves Hong Kong at midnight on June 30 with the Prince of Wales and Chris Patten, the Governor.

"*Sir Percival* will be taking some ammunition and other military equipment back to Britain", said Major John Herring, the British garrison spokesman.

Before she weighs anchor, *Sir Percival* will also become temporary home to the British Forces Broadcasting Service, which must leave its studios at Prince of Wales Barracks before June 30, when the building is handed over to the Chinese People's Liberation Army.



Sir Percival, a Royal Navy supply ship, sails into Hong Kong yesterday to begin its role as a removal van for more than 2,000 tonnes of equipment, including bullets and a yacht, from the British garrison.

Tung urges Blair to abandon Tory Hong Kong line

TUNG CHEE-HWA, Chief Executive-designate of the Hong Kong Government from July 1, called yesterday on the Government of Tony Blair to make a new start in Sino-British relations over Hong Kong.

In his first on-the-record interview with British newspapers since his appointment last year, Mr Tung said that he had read Labour statements that the Blair administration would continue the present British policy towards Hong Kong, which contests some of Mr Tung's basic plans.

"Nevertheless I hope the new Labour Government will look at the whole issue in a more macro way, looking at long-term relations between Hong Kong and Britain, China and Britain — to put behind [us] all the arguments, to sit down, say these things have to be done and move forward continuously in the interest of the six and a half million people of Hong Kong."



The next Hong Kong leader hopes Labour will make a fresh start in Sino-British relations, Jonathan Mirsky writes

Mr Tung laid the blame for the bad relationship between China and Britain on the "last Conservative Government" — there were "major changes". This was very unfortunate, he noted, for three years he was a member of Chris Patten's Executive Council or Cabinet, which is bound by secrecy; but Mr Tung has said on other occasions that his differing views to the Governor's policy of making the Legislative Council directly elected were well-known.

Apart from this straightforward statement of hope and a few other direct remarks — such as there are no Communists in his own Executive Council, that Democrats can contest the next Legislative Council elections in June 1998, taking the place of Beijing's appointed body which in turn will have taken over from the wholly elected one on July, and that he does not hold the equivalent rank of minister in the Chinese Government — Mr Tung evaded most questions or repeated the bromides to which Hong Kong has become accustomed since January. He is an affable, courteous, seemingly cheerful man, but his views would not be worth repeating were he not about to become the supreme political figure in one of the most successful and richest cities on the planet.

What Mr Tung expresses are the opinions of the Hong Kong super rich in their clubs, and in the same clichés. He repeats, in answer to questions about his opinions and how they are formed, that Hong Kong "must move forward... we must find a balance between the individual and society... don't judge other people by your own values... we must act as we think right". In 1991 Mr Tung gave £50,000 to the Conservatives' election drive. In those days he was a ship owner, he said, "with large financial concerns in the UK. We were called on to make some donations to the governing party. We did that. It was perfectly legal." But he will bring in a law forbidding

such contributions to political parties here. "We are too small, too vulnerable." Similarly, he says he knows some Communists in Hong Kong and "they are good people; the Communist Party in China does a good job". Although it is generally agreed there are at least 20,000 party members here, Mr Tung says: "They cannot be politically active [after July]. There wouldn't be one country, two systems."

While he insists there are no Communists in his Executive Council and he reads such rumours "with amazement" — party members here have identified two or three — Mr Tung appears to forget he has just said the party must not be active here, and notes that if there were party members in his Executive Council "I wouldn't be concerned".

Although Mr Tung intends to bring in a law requiring potential demonstrators to secure police approval that they are not a threat to "national security", in a recent television interview he said that Martin Lee, the chairman of the Democratic Party who recently met President Clinton in Washington, could demonstrate and would not be made a "martyr". But yesterday, having given the impression even to Mr Patten that Mr Lee need not have police approval to demonstrate

after July 1, Mr Tung insisted: "Everyone must obey the law." Reminded that arresting Mr Lee before 6,000 international journalists here for the handover would indeed make him a martyr, Mr Tung repeated: "No one is above the law." When it was suggested that Hong Kong is a peaceful city he replied: "We want to keep it that way."

Reminded that 300 university social scientists and Hong Kong's leading lawyers have pressed him not to change the laws pertaining to certain civil rights, which he rightly says were until recently curtailed by the British, Mr Tung said: "Yeah, yeah, I know." He had already observed that most Hong Kong people agreed with him on the importance of "balance".



Tung Chee-hwa, talking to British correspondents, blamed the Tories for bad relations with China.

Deep Blue checks Kasparov success

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

GARRY KASPAROV, the world chess champion with the instincts of a rook, was in the unaccustomed position of licking his wounds yesterday after Deep Blue, a supercomputer built by IBM scientists, whipped him in the second game of their six-match "man versus machine" challenge series.

After the game, played on Sunday, the series is now level at one victory apiece. The third match will be played today. Mr Kasparov's contingent, while shaken by their champion's defeat, is still confident of pulling through to victory in a battle that has now sprung vividly to life.

Some cynics have been suggesting that the defeat suited both Mr Kasparov and IBM a little too perfectly: a six-match whitewash in favour of the Russian would have killed off interest in future matches like this one, which is worth a lucrative \$700,000 (£437,000) to the winner and an incalculable amount in commercial publicity to IBM.

the world, it has emerged, have risen nobly above the scepticism, and are following the tussle with a generous passion. Every day since the series began last Saturday, thousands of people have "hit" IBM's chess web site — <http://www.chess.ibm.com/> — where the matches can be followed move by move.

America's on-line magazines are abuzz with erudite reports, discussions, rolling analyses and polls. One magazine asked its subscribers: "Kasparov versus Deep Blue: Who will win the chess tournament?" Man won, with 71 per cent of the Net votes polled; machine polled only 29 per cent.

Mr Kasparov, for his part, has shown that he can be as shrewd off the chessboard as he is ruthless on it. Picking his moment beautifully, he has just launched his own on-line enterprise, a "Kasparov chess club". Fans can explore Mr Kasparov's thoughts on the future of chess-playing computers, and his match reports.

Raymond Keene, page 28

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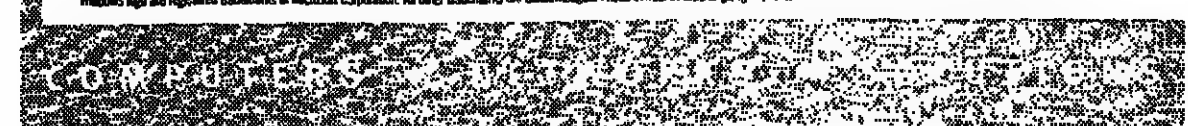
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GREAT MINDS
THINK VIGLEN

Aid staff plead for halt to Zaire rail evacuation despite rush to flee camp of horror

Exodus of refugees goes on after 91 die in packed train

FROM DAVID ORR
IN KISANGANI

ZAIREAN rebels appeared slow to react to an appeal by aid workers yesterday to halt the use of a narrow-gauge railway after 91 refugees died in overcrowded trucks.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees had appealed to the rebel authorities not to allow the train to run again until its operation could be better monitored. But six lorries full of refugees were still being loaded at the camp without any checks by humanitarian agencies.

Aid workers in Kisangani were still trying to come to terms with the horrific scenes they witnessed when the train carrying Rwandan refugees from the forest arrived at its terminus beside the River Congo on Sunday night. When the goods wagons carrying more than 3,000 people disgorged their cargo, 91 passengers were found to be dead and 47 injured, some seriously. Yesterday the ground was littered with discarded possessions: tattered clothing, cooking pots, identity cards,

Some refugees were grieving, but most seemed numb. People were just walking over the corpses.

biscuits, Bibles and rosary beads. Andy Bastable, of Oxfam, said: "There were men, women and children dead in the carriages. Some of the refugees were grieving over the bodies, but most just seemed numb. When we unloaded the dead, people were just walking over the corpses on the ground."

It was just by chance that a group of aid workers was at the terminus when the train pulled in. Having spent the day at Biaro refugee camp deep in the forest, they were waiting by the river for the ferry to take them back to Kisangani. Among them was a German doctor who had been treating wounded refugees at the camp, 25 miles south of the town.

The train was overcrowded,

ed," said Dr Assam Hanano, of the Cap-Anamur agency. "The people were so tightly packed they couldn't breathe. They died of asphyxiation and dehydration. I was able to save a few lives, but for some of the injured it was too late. They just died by the tracks."

The UN agencies in charge of the evacuation of 80,000 Rwandan refugees from the Zairean rainforest are still trying to establish who is responsible for the tragedy. The refugees are being transported by rail to Kisangani and from there by lorries to a transit camp on the outskirts of the town before being airlifted to Rwanda.

The operation is being run by the United Nations in conjunction with Laurent Kabila's Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire, which now controls more than three quarters of Zaire.

"We had appealed to the alliance not to run a train that day because our transit camp was already overfull," said Paul Strömberg, for the UNHCR. "But the train was loaded and set off without an OK from us. We don't know if



A two-year-old Hutu refugee waits to be registered at Kigali airport in Rwanda with his father after being flown from Kisangani in Zaire

it was the alliance which gave the order or if it was simply a matter of the rail company deciding to take another load."

The Rwandan refugees are living in conditions of appalling squalor in Biaro with little

access to food or medical attention. Aid agencies are only allowed to operate in the camp for a few hours a day because of the lack of security. Efforts to set up kitchens and clinics have been thwarted by

the rebel authorities, opposed to any permanent structures in the camp. Desperate to escape the camp, the refugees crowded onto the train on Sunday afternoon, some of them haul-

ing themselves into the carriages as they rolled past. According to one rumour, they had heard it was the last train out of the camp. "Even through my telephoto lens I couldn't see any gaps in

the sea of faces in the wagons," said Stephen Perry, a photographer on the train. "The people were obviously dead standing up. It was only when the train emptied that the dead fell to the ground."

Unita troops plan counter-attack as Kabila advances on capital

FROM SAM KILEY IN KINSHASA

LAURENT KABILA last night gave President Mobutu "two to three days" to step down to save himself and his family from advancing rebels who claimed yesterday they were closing in on Kinshasa from the east and the west.

"If Mobutu turns over power before we enter Kinshasa, I will guarantee his safety and that of his biological family. But if he does not, we will have to chase him away in a hasty fashion," Mr. Kabila said at his headquarters in Lubumbashi.

The threat was dismissed by Mobutu Nzinga, 27, the son and spokesman for the President as "the arrogant words of a hoodlum". Members of Mr. Mobutu's entourage also said that they were organising a counter-attack using 500 men from Angola's Unita guerrillas and hand-picked soldiers from the special presidential division.

Yesterday they said that the column of elite troops was heading east, and that they intended to try to retake Kenge, about 120 miles from



the capital. Although Jonas Savimbi has sent troops to reinforce Mr. Mobutu's bodyguard and Unita has a reputation for battlefield brilliance, it would probably take a stronger force to turn back the rebel tide.

To boost the ranks of the loyal troops, Mr. Mobutu's agents were offering £120,000 times their monthly salary — to join units preparing for the counter-attack. The rebels claimed to be only 40 miles from the airport outside Kinshasa. "Some are taking the money, but when the shooting starts, we'll run."

Who wants to die for a dying man?" said one young private.

Bill Richardson, the American special envoy, appeared to be of a like mind. After meeting Mr. Kabila he said that he was hoping to arrange a "soft landing" for the rebels when they enter Kinshasa. "The object of my urgent mission is to prepare a soft landing for Mr. Kabila's rebels when they reach Kinshasa to avoid bloodshed and chaos," Mr. Richardson said.

After refusing all diplomatic requests that he drop his demand for Mr. Mobutu to resign and hand power over to his alliance, Mr. Kabila has begun to emerge as an independent force having shaken off the reigns of his original handlers in Rwanda and Uganda.

In an attempt to persuade the rebel leader's allies to put pressure on him into a less belligerent attitude, Mr. Richardson also visited Paul Kagame, Rwanda's Defence Minister, and President

Museveni of Uganda. Most people in Kinshasa were anxiously waiting for the rebels to arrive in the capital. Their main concern was that government soldiers would go on a final looting spree.

Citizens were preparing white flags to drape outside their homes in a sign of support for Mr. Kabila. But most damaging, for Mr. Mobutu, who said at talks over the weekend that he was prepared to hand over to an elected leader, was that many units in his own army were also preparing to change sides.

Brussels: Thirty non-commissioned officers last night surrounded Congo's Defence Ministry, firing in the air to stop traffic as they pressed a demand for a new law on the reorganisation of the army. The commercial centre of the capital of Congo, two miles from Kinshasa across the Congo river, went into panic as civil servants left work early and shops closed. (AFP/Reuters)

Families cook near piles of corpses

BY DAVID ORR

"WHERE are the guys who pick up the bodies?" asked one of the aid workers with Médecins Sans Frontières. A Zairean said he was part of the team in charge of the corpses.

The aid worker said: "OK, I'll give you body bags and gloves. First, we'll bury the bodies, then we'll put bracelets on the wounded so we know which are the emergency cases for evacuation."

Another visit by Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) to Biaro camp, deep in the Zairean rainforest, had begun. There are more than 30,000 Rwandan refugees camped in the mud and filth of this makeshift settlement, 25 miles south of Kisangani. Bodies litter the site while the sick and wounded languish in the most squalor imaginable. Everywhere there is the sound of children crying.

"The only way we can cope is by

treating those who have a chance of surviving," said Dominique Boutriau, the MSF's head of mission. "We have to make decisions about those whom we can treat and those who are so sick they're going to die. It's terrible but in these conditions there's no other way."

The world has all but turned its back on the tragedy in the Zairean rainforest. Most days there are no more than half a dozen international aid agencies working at Biaro. A couple of doctors and a handful of medical assistants struggle to cope with an emergency that demands doctors by the hundred.

Two weeks ago, about 85,000 Rwandans were driven out of their encampments by Zairean villagers wielding machetes and rebels firing automatic weapons. Nobody knows how many died, but the stench of bodies along the

muddy track to the camps attests to the carnage. Last week the first refugees emerged from forest hiding places.

The paucity of the international aid presence is exacerbated by the reluctance of the rebel authorities to help the refugees. One frustrated aid worker at Biaro said: "They haven't allowed agencies to set up cooking centres or medical facilities. How are people meant to eat or get proper care?"

The dead are piled up behind the tents. Only feet away, families cook food over smoking fires, wash babies in filthy water and build shelters against the torrential rain.

Kisangani: About 55,000 Rwandan Hutu refugees have almost reached Zaire's border with Congo after walking 1,000 miles, the UN World Food Programme said yesterday. (Reuters)

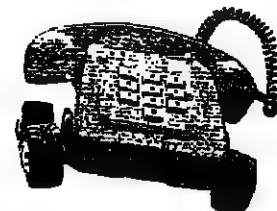
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Rewards of opium trade highlight Taleban hypocrisy

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN KANDAHAR

THE poppy fields start on the outskirts of Kandahar, the crop tall and ready for harvesting. In the coming month Afghanistan will produce enough raw opium to supply 80 per cent of the heroin market in Britain and the rest of Europe for a year, and there is nobody to stop it.

The southern city of Kandahar is the headquarters of Taleban, the militia that controls two thirds of the Islamic state. It imposes severe punishments for drug-taking by Afghans but encourages a vast narcotics industry for foreign markets. Afghanistan produces as much opium as Burma, the world's other main producer. Together they dominate the heroin trade and have divided the world between them: Europe belongs to Afghanistan, the United States to Burma.

Taleban's assertion that it is fighting heroin production is clearly a lie. Mullah Muhammad Omar, its reclusive one-eyed leader, could drive from his complex in Kandahar to the nearest poppy fields in ten minutes. For every kilo (2.2lb) of raw opium, Taleban imposes 10 per cent zakat, a



cause severe economic hardship to millions of Afghans, and would cost the Islamic army dearly in lost popularity and revenue.

Opium prices have quadrupled in the past four months, possibly because of fears that Taleban, anxious for international respectability, will eventually ban production. The United Nations Drug Control Programme is attempting to introduce crop-substitution schemes, but it is a long-term objective fraught with problems in a country with no government. Tree-borne fruits offer the best prospect of matching the profit margins of poppies, but most orchards have been destroyed by war.

All poppy farmers grow wheat and other crops for sale and personal consumption, but poppies are by far the best cash crop. They need little water, grow in poor soil and resist disease. Growers are likely to be paid around 5,500 Pakistani rupees (nearly £100) for a kilo of raw opium this season — substantial for a small farmer.

The buyers, often from Iran, come direct to the fields. It is a quick, simple process to turn

opium into morphine base and heroin, requiring only two chemicals and some containers for the mixture. Most is processed in Afghanistan, although a substantial amount is produced in tribal areas of Pakistan, despite official denials. The end product reaches Europe mostly via Central Asia and Turkey. Some goes through Iran, which conducts a concerted but losing drive against traffickers who fight back with sophisticated weaponry, including shoulder-held Stinger missiles.

Ten miles outside Kandahar, Ahmed Gul is examining the poppy crop on his modest land holding. "We know that drugs are not allowed under Islam, but we are very poor," he says.

"Our land and people have been destroyed by years of war. Millions of Afghans have died or run away. For the time being we have to cultivate poppies," Ahmed Gul says. "I'm sorry for the addicts in Europe and America. One day, we will stop this. There has to be another way. But we have to live."



An Afghan boy looks after his family's poppy crop. Although few in Afghanistan smoke opium, it is an important cash crop for peasant farmers. Growers will be paid about £100 for just over 2lb of raw opium after this year's harvest. "We have to live," said one farmer.

Israeli military makes Holocaust Day attack on budget

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI yesterday marked the annual 24 hours of remembrance for the six million Jews who perished in the Nazi Holocaust amid warnings from senior military officials that the country is severely under-equipped to face new threats from Syria and Iran.

As traffic and pedestrians across the nation halted for two minutes, heralded by the chilling wail of thousands of air raid sirens, the Tel Aviv daily *Maariv* quoted the military officials as claiming that the annual defence budget was one billion shekels (£200 million) short of what was needed to fight a new war. In a hard-hitting

article, published hours after Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, had pledged that a strong Israel would always ensure that the atrocities perpetrated against the Jews in the Second World War would never recur, *Maariv* said: "In the security administration, it was emphasised that the current budget does not enable the Israel Defence Force to prepare properly for war."

The officials, understood to have been given permission to break their silence by Brigadier-General Amnon Shahak, the Chief of Staff, added: "Due to lack of budget, there are shortages and gaps in a range of areas including stock, gear, development, training of fighting soldiers and building future

military capability." They added: "There is no doubt that there is a giant gap between what is needed and what exists. The gap is deepening in the current situation, in which Syria is constantly trying to arm itself with non-conventional weapons and long-range ground-to-ground missiles."

The disclosures hit home, coming hours after Mr Netanyahu had delivered the central speech of the Holocaust ceremonies. He vowed that "never again will Jewish children be helpless". Some 1.5 million were killed by the Nazis and their memory formed the theme of this year's memorials.

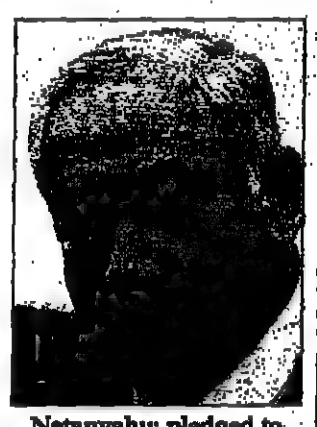
Military censorship prevented reference to Israel's known arsenal of at

least 200 nuclear weapons, but one senior commentator hinted strongly that it would be a last resort to prevent any attempted Holocaust.

Yossi Lapid, a Holocaust survivor, added that Israel was the "only place in the world where Jews remain exposed to the threat of mass annihilation".

Death penalty: Palestinians who sell land to Israelis will receive the death penalty, Foreign Minister, said yesterday (Our Foreign Staff writes).

In another development, an Israeli army bulldozer demolished four illegally built Palestinian houses and a shed near the Jewish settlement of Kiryat Arba, outside Hebron, leaving 28 Palestinians homeless.



Netanyahu: pledged to defend Jewish children

The captains' fists are flying at 11,000ft

FROM REUTERS IN ISTANBUL

TWO Turkish pilots and their seatbelts and fought in the cockpit after falling out over what height they should be flying at. An autopilot maintained the jet carrying 240 passengers at 11,000ft.

The clash occurred when Captain Alan Terzan misunderstood altitude instructions from the control tower 45 minutes after the Airbus 340 took off from Bangkok. As the passengers settled down, Captain

Erdoğan Geçim asked him: "Are you deaf? He is telling you something and you are doing something completely different."

The rest of the flight crew had to intervene to restore order and a third, more junior pilot completed the flight to Istanbul.

Turkish Airlines said yesterday that it had sacked the pair immediately after the incident on April 4. "Their contracts have been annulled," said an airline spokesman.



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Defender of the chef's Maginot line

surviving
the
slimming
season

In part two of our series on slimmers, the restaurateur Nico Ladenis gives his opinions on those customers who say they are on a diet

I imagine getting really excited about something you have created. You have spent time and energy, researching and working to perfect it. Then you finally present it to another person and they say "This is all very nice — but I want something different".

That is how I feel about customers who bring their diets into my restaurant. By definition, a diet is personal and should not be imposed on anyone else.

Food should be a celebration of all senses — sight and smell as well as taste. If customers wish to lose weight, they should choose light dishes that are already on the menu. That way, they will not compromise the hours of hard work and devotion my chefs put into preparing food, and will not miss out on wonderful ingredients that may not necessarily be unhealthy.

Restaurants like Chez Nico, which are at the very top, have got there because of a certain standard in cuisine. Menus have been perfected over a number of years, and by a highly skilled team of chefs. Thus, I just cannot comprehend a customer who says "I know you have put years of talent and expertise into this sauce, but I do not want it with

my meal". It would be like buying a Lacoste and asking for the straps to be taken off.

On a more serious matter, I believe that once a chef begins to accommodate special requests outside his menu, he may find himself compromising his standards. All restaurants awarded with Michelin stars have been scrutinised by connoisseurs. The stars stand for continual improvement and perfection of one's menu.

If I diversify to please an individual order, I risk losing a star. For example, a frequent request in the restaurant is for meat dishes without sauce. I never, never compromise on this. In the Michelin style, a good brown sauce is an accurate indication of the standard of the chef.

Restaurant and of who the chef is. If I do not create the right sauces, I belong to a different category of restaurant. No one would go into a Rolls-Royce showroom and ask to buy a Ford Mondeo, so why should a chef expect this sort of behaviour from his customers?

The same principle can be applied to salads. Sometimes I get a table of four very prim, very skinny and elegant American ladies. Regardless of the menu, they will order four salads. I answer that I don't know what a salad is — we



Nico Ladenis: "No one would go into a Rolls-Royce showroom and ask to buy a Ford Mondeo, so why should a chef expect this sort of behaviour from his customers?"

don't do salads. What they mean is a bowl of fancy leaves.

I do use certain leaves to garnish particular dishes, but I would never put them in a salad. To me, a salad is a dish of cucumbers, olives, beans, tomatoes and olive oil, eaten in cafes by the Mediterranean.

Nowadays, my position means that I do not often have

to deal with these requests myself. My maitre d' and waiters have to take the flak instead. At Chez Nico, we keep a list of all the ridiculous and bizarre requests customers have made. It takes pride of place.

Once an American woman said: "I am a vegetarian, I don't eat pasta, I don't eat rice,

I don't eat bread, I don't eat fish and I don't eat vegetables. Can you cook something for me?" Another said: "I only eat fish, have you got any fish that doesn't taste of fish?"

An amusing request, which I experienced personally, was a table asking for a chocolate marquise without the Armagnac. I said: "How can you

expect me to take a fundamental ingredient out of a dish that was made yesterday and is now sitting ready to be sliced on to a plate?" Sometimes I wonder if my customers take me for an idiot.

Admittedly, my menus have changed over the years, and at 63, I am conscious of maintaining my health. I do not eat

as much red meat as I used to, instead I eat more fish. Naturally, I will take my customers in a similar direction. But I will not yield to the whims of any health fad or diet.

Restaurants are like the Maginot line — fortified and well-guarded. The enemy says: "I know you are strong and well defended, but just let

me advance five or ten yards." If you agree, before long everything will collapse. I say defend, defend and do not make allowances. Customers know who you are and what your food stands for. If they do not like the menu, they should go somewhere else.

Nico Ladenis was talking to Bridget Harrison

Dustin Hoffman made his own omelette

Almost without exception, diets are an absolute pain for restaurateurs. I can understand someone who wants to lose weight. The soundest advice I would give is eat, or drink less. But I cannot understand the concept of going to a restaurant and paying not to eat. It turns the whole purpose of a restaurant on its head.

So many diets today are founded in ridiculous faddism. They fly in the face of good food, are a nightmare for chefs, and in some cases seem positively harmful. A few weeks ago, Dustin Hoffman went into Kensington Place, where my flatmate Rowley Leigh is head chef, and ordered an egg white omelette. On hearing the order, Rowley said he just could not bear to make it. So the waitress told Dustin that the chef was having trouble with his request. Moments later, Dustin appeared in the kitchen saying: "I understand you are having problems with the concept of my order — let me help out." No doubt some dietitian in Los Angeles has decreed that this is what you should eat and is making millions of dollars with a new bestseller. The result must have tasted like fried savoury meringue.

Often people seem to forget that chefs go to a great deal of trouble to prepare their food. Thought, skill and ego go into menus. In good restaurants there will be five or six — or in some cases 20 — eggs and girls slaving away in the kitchen. It is simply soul-destroying when people take one look at the menu and say they cannot eat this and they cannot eat that because they are on a diet.

The most common antic of a dieter is to order a dish and not touch it, or ask for particular specifications — a salad with

Customer requests can be very disruptive. One lunch-time, they brought the kitchen to a standstill with 14 variations of a salad, says Alastair Little

no dressing, the meat with no sauce, or, like Dustin Hoffman, demand something that isn't even on the menu. We try to accommodate all requests within reason.

My dishes fall into two categories — those that can be cooked instantaneously, so variations are quite easy, and those that have been prepared earlier in which the ingredients are already included. I have been asked to serve a beef bourguignon without the red wine, or the beef. This is asking for the impossible.

Salads are easier. I like to serve mine dressed, but within reason I'll adapt dressings, or leave them out altogether. I used to object violently when customers asked for meat with sauce on the side. I would place the meat at one end of the plate and the sauce at the other. Now I send the sauce in a pot to see if they will be able to resist it.

Working to customers' specifications can be very disruptive. When I worked at 192, I developed a seasonal salad for customers who did not want a heavy meal at lunch-time. On one occasion, the salad consisted of French beans, avocado and bacon in a big bowl of leaves. Somehow, the customers managed to order 14 different variations on this — "hold the beans, no dressing", "with beans but no avocado", "dressing but no beans or avocado". They brought the kitchen to a standstill. Since then, I have

put my foot down. If customers want variations, requests should be simple.

Over the past five years, vegetarianism has been the biggest trend. I tried to resist adapting menus because I love meat. I argued that there were lots of starters and tasty vegetables, without having to put on a non-meat main course. Nowadays most of our menus offer a good choice for vegetarians.

If I can take meat out of a dish without vastly compromising it I will. What angers me are vegetarians who are looking for meat substitutes, and expect something by Linda McCartney. Minced Quorn is a classic example. To me, it looks like high-class cat litter.

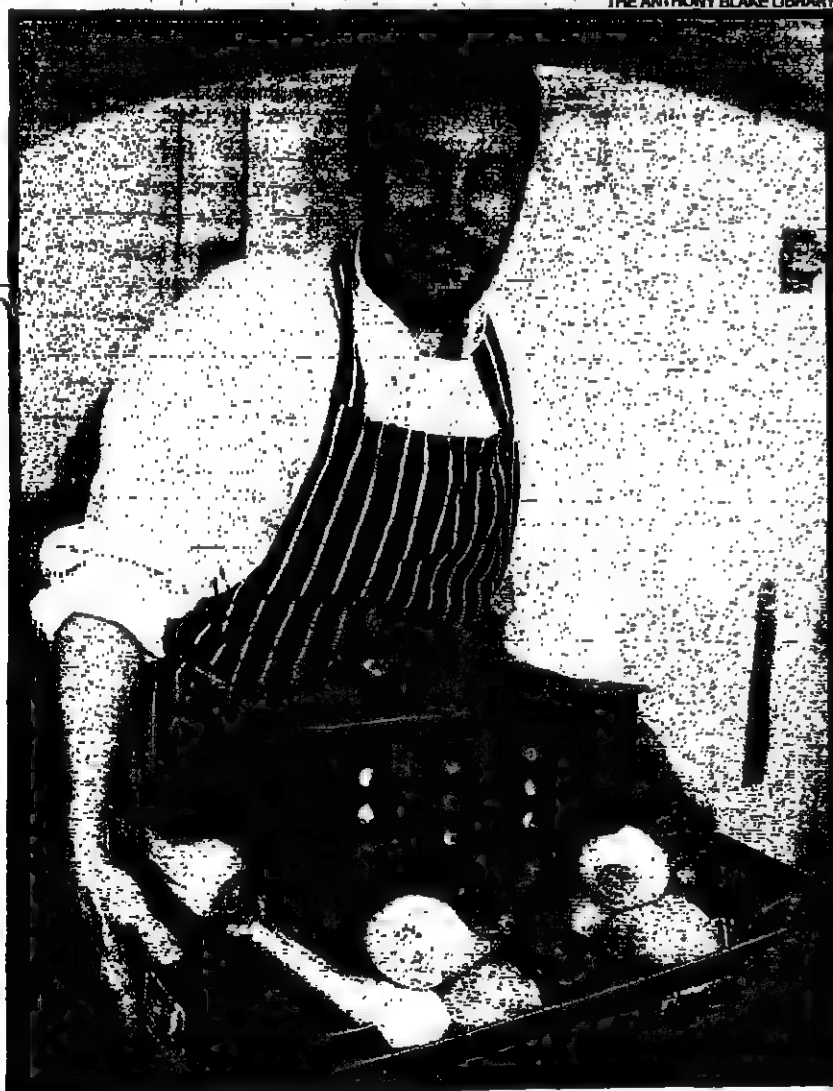
Another big dieting fad is fat-free, which I find horrifying. I use gallons of olive oil a week, which, luckily, is now considered to be healthy. Meat without

fat is an abomination. We don't mind cutting the fat off afterwards, but meat needs to be cooked in fat to taste any good.

Low salt is a frequent request. We now underseason most dishes, and then finish up to individual requirements. Genuine medical needs are bound up with these trends, but I wonder how many are based on institutionalised faddism.

I do sympathise with customers who try to avoid eating a huge meal at lunch-time, so I do an optional set menu of two starters and a coffee, which is terribly popular. But evenings are a completely different matter. If you are going to trek into Soho, then you are coming for a meal and an occasion. If you are not going to eat, why go out to dinner? Food is sensual and a pleasure — it is the most fun you can have with your clothes on. If you are coming to my restaurant, have everything you really want, feel deliciously guilty about it — and leave your diet at home.

Alastair Little was talking to Bridget Harrison



Alastair Little: "If you are coming to my restaurant, leave your diet at home"

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David Hockney in his London studio, where Roy Strong went for lunch. "Original is the only word one could ever apply to him," Strong says. "I couldn't help loving him and admiring his quick logic and unique perception"

I taste the delights of another world

THE ROY STRONG DIARIES 1967-1987

Day Two of our series: partying through the Sixties and Seventies

1967
I was made Director of the National Portrait Gallery and suddenly I was thrown into a whole new world. This was the period when Lady Antonia Fraser was making her mark as a writer and also as a hostess, presiding over gatherings at her house in Campden Hill Square. Her gatherings

followed the accepted pattern, beginning with a dinner, after which a second tide of guests arrived. It was difficult to get to bed much before dawn and it is hardly surprising that a recurring theme in my diary for this year is one recording tiredness and exhaustion. Other key exponents of this kind of entertainment were George Weidenfeld and Ann Fleming. All were sooner or later to recruit me to their ranks. One was at full pelt.

Lunch parties even then seemed to belong to another age. They began arriving at 12.45pm and not leaving until nearly three. They epitomised leisure, an elegance and an intimacy. Usually they were of about eight or two tables of eight, rarely more. Cecil (Beaton) always gave lunches. They were in impeccable taste. I went to many but the most memorable occurred this year on April 10 when I was bidden to meet the Queen Mother.

"The Queen Mother always meets the same old boring people," Cecil drawled down the telephone, "so I'm asking you." My record of it is deficient but I recall the ac-

with a vast columned portico and every sign that gentility had long since fled. I climbed up a squalid staircase well to be met by David. Original is the only word one could ever apply to him, with his bleached blond hair and owl spectacles. But I couldn't help loving him and admiring his quick logic and unique perception.

He's rather large and square, getting fat in fact, and somehow terribly conscious of it. The whole time I was there he kept on feeling beneath his shirt as though checking up on the expansion of the wodge. We sat down in his kitchen, together with his slim blond American boyfriend Peter Schlesinger, and lunched off consommé, toast and pâté washed down with red wine. After it we went into the studio.

I don't think that I'd ever before encountered anyone so overtly homosexual. Against one wall rested two blown-up photographs of Peter, one in bikini underpants, the other in jeans with his flies undone. All over the floor were scattered magazines with male nudes.

David picked one up and complained how it had been seized by the Customs and then returned. On its cover was stamped "Nudes—semi-erect". He agreed to draw Fred Ashton for me. The phone rang. It was a Spanish waiter who wanted to come round and strip for him to draw. The time had come to leave.

March 31, 1969
I went with Hugh Leggatt, the donor, to Annigoni's studio at

56, Edwards Square. There, on the easel, sat his pastel and tempera head-and-shoulders of the Queen looking extremely serious, in concept simple and monumental. But the excitement came when he showed us a series of suggested compositional sketches, one of which I dived at. Against a huge, overcast sky, the Queen arose like a vision in a red cloak, lonely, majestic, timeless, formidable, the crown embodied.

December 8, 1969
Saw Annigoni again at the Palace. The portrait is almost finished. For a moment it looked dull and then Hugh uttered the word, "varnish". Annigoni seized a wide brush and dipped it in the water of a flower vase and applied it to the picture as we shrieked "Marvellous!"

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER

THE TIMES

A free child ticket for Alton Towers

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Alton Towers is set in 500 acres of Staffordshire countryside and has woodland walks and beautiful gardens, first landscaped in the nineteenth century, complete with conservatory, designed by Robert Abrahams.



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A Spanish waiter wanted to come and strip for Hockney — it was time for me to leave

ress Irene Worth extolling the virtues of Fortuny dresses, which she always wore for solo performances, and Diana Cooper arriving with a tiny dog which she deposited on her lap during lunch. I remember Cecil cursing Edith Sitwell, who had been a guest the last time the Queen Mother had come, and whose arrival had been heralded by an ambulance, a gangplank and male nurse outriders gliding her wheelchair to rest. Looking back I was an innocent, learning the ropes of a scene in which one either sank or swam. I swam.

Before I left for London Cecil, chortling a line or two of *Well Gather Lilies*, took his seat and strolled round the garden piling my arms high with huge branches of lilac. I sat in the train engulfed in its fragrance, a happy man. I had glimpsed another world and had drunk deep of its delights.

January 29, 1969
David Hockney's studio is one of those late-Victorian stucco terraces in Notting Hill Gate.

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Jackie Onassis is in her early forties — she has the hands of an old woman



George Weidenfeld is larger-than-life and sees a book in everyone he claps eyes on



Cecil piled my arms high with huge branches of lilac. I was a happy man

January 6, 1970
The Field of Cloth of Gold Ball was the event of the winter season. Lady Antonia Fraser presided as the Queen of the Field. The evening started with a buffet at her house in Campden Hill Square, where the costumes assembled. I had exploited my new-found friendship with the opera at the Coliseum and went dressed as a Regency antiquarian carrying a large folder with a label on its outside reading: *An Exact Inquiry Concerning the Antiquities of the Field of Cloth of Gold*. That soon proved to be a sorry burden. But the green velvet jacket with gold frogging, satin knee breeches, and black stockings looked fetching enough.

This indeed was an odd assemblage. Antonia had decided to don a headdress of golden rays as some kind of *Reine Soleil* but she resembled rather the Statue of Liberty. Her costume was vaguely medieval in orange and gold with trailing sleeves and a mass of brilliant orange ostrich-feather trimmings. The satirist John Wells was looting around as Richard III with a cushion stuffed up his back. Teresa Casarec had raided the tableau of the Princess in the Tower at Tussaud's and came as one of the luckless victims, while Hardy Amies arrived as Richard of Bordeaux, oblivious to the fact that the king would have been long dead by his age.

After much mutual admiration we all set off in convoys

for King Street, where the Great Rooms had been dressed overall by David Milmar, huge sixteenth-century tapestries swagged along the walls which, much to my surprise, had been lent by John Lewis. So it all raved on amidst the gloom but the prize of the evening must go to the wicked David Carrist. There he stood engulfed in artificial grass with two plastic bumblebees pinned as nipples. When I asked him what he was he replied: "The Field."

February 25, 1970
The day of the unveiling of the Annigoni portrait of the Queen at last came. It began very simply with me arriving early to check that everything was in order. Nothing, however, had quite prepared me for the screaming mob of journalists that fell through the Gallery doors when they were opened. For an hour it was nothing but cameras flashing. Annigoni was a positive saint as he posed for them, even agreeing to stand on a chair by the picture and frankly looking somewhat idiotic.

Lord Kenyon and I met the Queen and escorted her amidst a barrage of flashing camera lights, up to her own portrait. The newsreel cameras whirled while she stood and looked at herself, commenting on how varnishing had improved the picture and then she said: "It looks very different with a frame." A masterpiece of evasion.

June 16, 1970
Diana Cooper is one of the few originals that I have ever met. Somehow she has a timeless

magic which cuts across the generations and makes differences in age irrelevant. I'd put her high on my list of the least snobbish people I have ever met. She was making one of her specials when I arrived, that lethal mix of vodka, grapefruit juice and nana of which I have learned to beware. Before I could say anything she grabbed me by the arm saying: "Such a disaster. At 12.30pm I went to check that everything was in order and found that the cook was coming tomorrow and," she added with a grimace, "such a distinguished luncheon party." Just how distinguished was shortly to emerge as the guests assembled.

The result of this catastrophe was that the party ended up in the Maida Vale Steakhouse. The manager was taken aback by this invasion headed by Diana and Harold Macmillan, or "Horse" as she calls him, bent double over a stick, deaf and complaining of a cataract. The manager said that he was used to having all the pop stars but not the politicians. So there we were, an ex-Prime Minister, a marquess and marchioness (Salisbury wearing a straw hat engulfed in white net), an ex-American ambassador, myself and Diana Phipps, who had just bought a foot (sic) by Rubens in the Portobello Road for £25. By the evening news of this bizarre gathering had reached the *Evening Standard*. What it showed was that Diana was unsinkable.

June 30, 1970
The most brilliant event of the season must have been the



Antonia Fraser looked like the Statue of Liberty

ball at Windsor in Ascot week to celebrate the Queen Mother's, Lord Mountbatten's and the Duke of Gloucester's seventieth birthdays. Ted Heath (the Prime Minister), after saying that he was definitely not going, did, and made a triumphal entry. I was told, kissed by the duchesses. The fête, given at Kelvedon by the Channons, came next, to

which I drove across country with Julia Trevelyan Oman from Glyndebourne.

A great pavilion had been built on to the back of the house with polythene windows, a massive use of glistering tinfoil, white balloons and psychedelic lighting effects. One's ears were obliterated by the pop music. Inside the house was banked with sweet-smelling white lilies.

Seven hundred and fifty guests gobbled salad, strawberries and cream, danced, talked and strolled from 10.30pm until dawn. Just about everyone was there.

March 2, 1971
Elizabeth Longford asked me to a small drinks party for Prince Charles. There were about a dozen of us. Antonia

was there, pretty beyond belief, with Frank Longford, Martin and Gay Charteris, the odd deb girl and the writer Marina Warner in appliqué hot-pants beneath a coat which went down to her ankles. All Marina could think of was that HRH was 22 and had been to bed with anyone? He's a pleasant young man, earnest, with a boyish grin and a non-sophisticated sense of humour, prankish, thoughtful, kind and shy. I couldn't help being impressed by his sheer "niceness".

March 24, 1971. Buckingham Palace en fête
This was the day of the great fête at Buckingham Palace arranged by Patrick Plunket, a party of a new kind bringing into the royal orbit all sorts and conditions of people they

never usually bothered about. The royals were there in force and we were received by the Queen, Charles and Anne, Princess Margaret and Tony, Princess Alexandra and the Queen Mother. The latter, sweet as always, was in her inevitable diara and Harrell crinoline, one of white net sprinkled with sequins which, however, had seen better days. Princess Alexandra hailed me off to see the Canaletto drawings. Patrick Plunket in black velvet was preening himself on the success of it all, the whole event based on what the Spanish and French embassies did. Not before time it replaced the cocktail party, and what was clear was that everybody likes an excuse to dress up.

New Year's Day, 1972
Harold Acton's villa, La Pietra, has a number, 120, and is on the Via Bolognese as one leaves Florence. I felt as though I was walking into a setting from a novel by Henry James, or perhaps Edith Wharton. There were vast rooms whose walls were painted a grubby cream stuffed with Italian primitives, chairs of faded, ragged velvet, mottled mirrors, pieces of classical sculpture and dusty curtains swagged back and secured by gargantuan tassels. And, of course, every other thing was gilt. All right, one had to admit that it was a little run-down, but it was definitely grand.

The dining room must be unique for being hung seemingly entirely with "Last Suppers". Lunch consisted of a risotto of *romanesco*, turkey with artichokes and soggy

sprouts, salad and cream cheese, followed by a vast chocolate soufflé.

The conversation was louché and flowed thick and fast, thriving on gossip and scandal. It began with a story about Mrs Keppel, Edward VII's mistress, arriving for lunch somewhere in Italy, demanding gin and, finding there was none, sending her chauffeur to buy it. From there it moved on to Violet Trefusis; no, she had not been the King's mistress, but she had had a tumble with him on the sofa. Wallis Simpson, she said, owed her hold over the Duke of Windsor to the fact that she had learned the "Chinese clutch" in Shanghai. Notice the way, she used to say, that he couldn't keep his eyes off her, reducing himself to the level of ventriloquist's dummy. And so it ran on.

June 26, 1972

"Who could do it, even in the eighteenth century?" Jack Plumb remarked to me as 40 people sat down to dinner at Cleve Lodge, George and Sandra Weidenfeld being seemingly together again for a brief period. These occasions always begin in the hall with drinks, move on into the dining room and thence to the library. The decor of the place cannot be described as expensive but impersonal, except for the library which reflects George's genuine interest in his subject. He's an extraordinary, larger-than-life man, with a brilliant intellect, seeing a book in practically everyone he claps eyes on. I had the misfortune to be placed next to Mrs Peter Quennell, who spent most of the dinner denouncing everyone else at the table and screaming about the ceiling spotlight which fell upon her.

August 9, 1972
Lunch at the Café Royal with the Wrightsmans and Jackie Kennedy Onassis. She's in her early forties with a cute, slightly lined, Sixties face, dipped hair and the hands of an old woman, the flesh withered with enormous knuckles, today covered with sticking-plaster. Nervous, with eyes popping, she moved with almost teenage animation. The impression was of an intelligent, rich woman, bored with life marooned on a Greek island, envious of the Wrightsmans' London lifestyle and longing for New York. In conversation, she was a receiver rather than a giver.

January 30, 1973
We were bidden to dinner with Olive and Denis Hamilton given in honour of Harold Macmillan and turned out to be the only other guests. I suppose it was important and fascinating to meet the former prime minister, but I think that I would have to place him as one of the rudest men that I

have ever met. He looks exactly like his own cartoons. Now about 80 I would have thought, he's a bit geriatric with a runny nose, and his speech is a stream of consciousness interspersed with occasional lucid flashes. I was swatted down regularly if I ever attempted to open my mouth, never allowed to contribute one thing to the conversation, and if I even began a sentence he interrupted it. He was caricature arch-reactionary, enough to make me want to vote communist.

March 28, 1973

Alfred Hecht is a very superior framer who lives over his shop in the King's Road. This was an extremely wearing evening, a non-stop flow of hard intellect and hard talk, and a contrary assemblage of guests. To my left sat Jennie Lee, her white hair immaculate, wearing an oatmeal-coloured trouser suit with a blouse in a perfectly dreadful shade of turquoise, and with quite a lot of make-up on when you looked closely.

Then there was Michael Foot and his wife. God, what doctrinaire socialists! After dinner the two of them were unleashed. They harangued us, he raising his voice as though addressing a revolutionary mob. Poor Nin Ryan, the benign American millionaire, one sensed her shudder. And then, mercifully, there was Arnold Goodman.

Lord Goodman is a huge, loving and logical. He is a fascinating character, contained infinitely human and infinitely devious. He never contradicts himself and one can't help being struck by the utter uniqueness of the person, a jovial mound with huge hands, endlessly fondling and taking on and off his half-moon glasses. He never raises his voice and there is always a twinkle in his eye. He never either abuses anyone or loses his sense of humour. There was a furious, breathless row about the arts, the Foots on the old socialist theme of suppressed talent through lack of opportunity. They believed that there were thousands of undiscovered artists, poets and writers. There had been, Arnold argued, an explosion of interest and appreciation of the arts but what was striking about it was the fact that it hadn't produced this galaxy of new talent. Where, he asked, were all these new composers and painters and writers?

Excerpted from *The Roy Strong Diaries 1967-1987*, by Roy Strong, to be published by Weidenfeld and Nicolson on May 12, £30.

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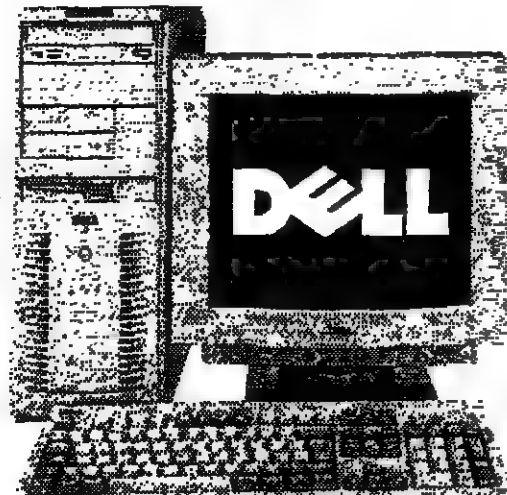
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■ VISUAL ART 1

The passion to possess: the mania that drives collectors is showcased around London



■ VISUAL ART 2

Prophet in the wilderness: Francisco Clemente reveals the fruits of his 51-day Indian sojourn

THE TIMES
ARTS



■ CD CHOICE

Renata Scott's superb recording of *Madam Butterfly* is on Michael Kennedy's Top Ten list



■ TOMORROW

What's hot this summer: *Times* critics choose the tickets you won't want to miss in the coming season



Andrea Fraser's list (centre) of the items housed in one particular room of the Wallace Collection at Hertford House, drawn up by the obsessive Lady Wallace a century ago

Heirlooms of the dogged

VISUAL ART: Richard Cork joins the Photographers' Gallery's London-wide celebration of the collector's eccentric passion

The mania for collecting knows no limits. Nothing, it seems, is too banal, ephemeral or just plain tacky to escape the devouring, dedicated hoarder. And the Photographers' Gallery has hit on an enterprising way of examining the addiction. Its new show involves an extraordinary variety of object-hungry premises all over central London, from the august dignity of the British Museum and the Wallace Collection to brash, consumerist temples such as Habitat and Selfridges.

The weirdness begins at the gallery's own premises, where curator Neil Cummings has assembled a heady array of obsessives. Ming de Nasty and Mo Wilson show large colour portraits of local collectors in the Walsall area. They look sane enough, but the images surrounding them betray the full, bizarre extent of their compulsive desires.

One young woman seems about to be engulfed in an avalanche of Marilyn Monroe pictures, laughing, pointing and blowing Hollywood kisses from every inch of the claustrophobic room around her. The contrast between the apparent normality of the collectors and the blatant eccentricity of their devotion is often unsettling in itself. So is the calm, methodical way Jim Sullivan goes about amassing his slide collection. Hundreds of back-lit images testify to his fearless resolve, photographing car tyres, urinals, washing machines and even cinema seats like an over-zealous detective.

Taking the show beyond the gal-

lery and into institutions already bursting with possessions of their own is a risky tactic. The artist's intervention may be overwhelmed by the exhibits already displayed there, and at the Hunterian Museum the danger is all too clear. The bones, fetuses and other macabre specimens gathered by the 18th-century surgeon John Hunter are mesmerising enough to distract us from Susan Hiller's showcase. But her collection of pictures, supposedly made by an eccentric Londoner called Alfie West, adds up to an outlandish ensemble.

For all his dottiness, West was committed to as much surgical precision as Hunter as he spent his spare time cutting and splicing human hair. One leaf-like offering is, according to a proud inscription in childish writing, a single tendril "split into 18 parts". Flanked by Hunterian brocade-brac on one side, and the Tooth Museum on the other, Hiller's findings blend in only too well with their spooky location.

Over at the Wallace Collection, though, Andrea Fraser's work is utterly at variance with the sensuous profusion of Boucher, Fragonard and Watteau. She has uncovered an exhaustive inventory of Hertford House's contents drawn up by Lady Wallace in 1890. Amelie-Julie-Charlotte Wallace was a redoubtable woman. She ensured that everything,

including the "mahogany towel horse" in the one-time billiards room, was itemised with curatorial care.

Fraser has printed out the lists and displayed each of them in its appropriate room. They show how domestic the house was before its transformation, in 1897, into a public museum. The resplendent gallery where Bonington and Delacroix canvases now hang was once the housekeeper's room, and Lady Wallace even insisted that its "two pieces of linoleum" appeared on the list.

Fraser plays an archaeological role, peeling back the layers of history and disclosing how a great collection developed. She also says something about the diligence of a wealthy woman determined to hold on to all her possessions, however insignificant they may now appear.

After a while, though, the lists fall foul of the law of diminishing returns. They make similar points over and over again, like the showcase Fred Wilson has installed in the British Museum's Egyptian gallery. The dusty plinths, boxes and labels retrieved from storage once played an important part in determining how the exhibits were understood by visitors. But Wilson overplays his hand by assembling too many of these melancholy remains.

Mercifully, Richard Wentworth has made a far more stimulating intervention in the same collection.

Beyond the granite sarcophagus of Nesut from the 27th Dynasty, he has installed shelves where Egyptian drinking vessels are juxtaposed with cans and bottles scavenged in the streets around the British Museum. The result is eye-opening. Seen in the context of Coke, Fanta and other, more alcoholic tipples of today, the ancient beakers suddenly become more approachable. We realise that the Egyptians liked boozing as much as we do, and Wentworth points to a 19th Dynasty papyrus where the writer warns: "Beer robs you of all human respect, it affects your mind, and here you are like a broken rudder, good for nothing."

In the basement café at Habitat, the Belgian artist Guillaume Bijl has constructed a five-part glass showcase. In every curtained chamber, a chair is displayed on a plinth. According to the labels beneath, each belonged to a celebrity, and each appears to reflect the character of its purported owner. Oscar Wilde's chair has a tasteful, pale green seat and shamelessly ornamental lattice back, whereas Emmeline Pankhurst's looks as austere as Shaker furniture and exhorting to sit on.

The truth is, however, that they all come from the same theatrical store. By faking their ownership, Bijl gently mocks the way we venerate even the most dubious historical relics. Cultural tourism is his real target, and

his subversive manoeuvres end up making us laugh at the pretensions of everything else on view in Habitat.

Finally, at Selfridges, Neil Cummings and Marysia Lewandowska have produced a specially commissioned guide called *Browse*, inviting us to think about the correspondences between the British Museum and the largest building ever designed as a single shop.

What the two places share, say the artists, are "encyclopaedic ambitions and complex layout", deployed on the grand scale to "structure our dreams and deepest desires". In order to back up their argument, the brochure carries a deliberately teasing set of illustrations. A four-way looking, silent-action cat flap (unknown provenance, c.1995) is placed alongside a sacred bronze cat (Egypt, after 600 BC). And a Premier League collection of "votive figures" (China, c.1996-97) is shown near a row of mummiform tomb figures (c. New Kingdom).

The principal differences between them, of course, centres on their availability and quality. The original British Museum pieces are not for sale, and they are far more aesthetically impressive than the Selfridges wares. All the same, browsing is an activity increasingly fostered in both types of building, and the dramatic recent growth of the gallery shop ensures that collectors can acquire replicas of even the rarest and most expensive masterpieces.

Collected runs until June 21

Young dreams of a celluloid hero

THE recent renewal of interest in Erich Wolfgang Korngold's music has come just in time for the centenary of his birth. Soon the composer's devotees will also be celebrating the centenary of his first works. For Korngold was a musical *wunderkind* almost as astonishing as Mozart. But it was just as well that the first of the Korngold anniversary concerts, under the auspices of the Anglo-Austrian Music Society, focused largely on his early music. Although he became a brilliant, Academy Award-winning film composer, his promise was never really fulfilled.

This programme included only one of the late works, the song *Sonnet for Vienna*, a schmaltzy hymn of tribute to the war-damaged city of Korngold's youth, in which the influence of Hollywood is all too apparent. But if the old jibe about "more corn than gold" applies here, gold is certainly to be found in some of the teenage genius's songs. The sophisticated *Schneeglöckchen* has an extraordinary bittersweet quality. *Nachwandler* is strangely unsettling, and the *Lebensbriefchen* is a beautiful outpouring of emotion. The later three songs from Op 18 are characterised by a floating non-tonality, and the modal-sounding *Four Shakespearean Songs* (Op 31), heard here in public for the first time since 1941, are affecting in their simplicity.

All received idiomatic per-

Korngold Centenary Queen Elizabeth Hall

performances from Jacqueline Mura, an alert *Lieder* singer possessed of a glowing mezzo, and the pianist Philip White.

White was also the moving force behind the first London performance of Korngold's one-act opera *Der Ring des Polykrates* (1916), given in concert with piano accompaniment. It needed an orchestra: Korngold was a deft orchestrator, and instrumental colour was what this under-characterised music lacked, even though White handled the taxing piano reduction well.

With its waltz-infused score and 18th-century Viennese setting, *Polykrates* was written, like much of Korngold's early music, under the spell of *Der Rosenkavalier*. But the plot is third-rate bourgeois domestic comedy, and the performers did well to make it appear only second-rate.

Malmö: Sand, Ivan Sharpe and Gavin Taylor all had their moments, the tenor Dietmar Ketz stood out for his lively portrayal of Wilhelm Arndt, the *Kaiserkapellmeister*, and Lorna Rushton displayed soulful sparkle as the maid Lieschen.

JOHN ALLISON

A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

MICHAEL KENNEDY'S TOP TEN

My choice of favourite recordings was governed by their influence on the development of my taste and because the performances still seem unsurpassed.

To start with, my youthful excitement in discovering Beethoven is epitomised in the *Archduke Trio* performed in 1928 by Cortot, Thibaud and Casals (EMI CDH 7 61024-2, £10.49).

The 1932 recording of Elgar's Violin Concerto is chosen not so much for the 16-year-old Yehudi Menuhin's playing, but for Elgar's poetic conducting of the LSO. (EMI CDC 5 5521-2, £15.99).

Ralph Vaughan Williams conducting his Fourth Symphony with the BBC Symphony Orchestra in 1937 is a performance of astonishing vitality and drama (*Dutton* CDAX 8011, £10.49).

I have never forgotten hearing Ginette Neveu's intense performance of Sibelius's Violin Concerto a few days before she died in 1949. She recorded it with the Philharmonia Orchestra conducted by Walter Susskind in 1945 (EMI CDH 7 61011-2, £10.49).

A lifelong love of Richard Strauss was kindled by extracts from *Der Rosenkavalier* recorded in Vienna in 1933 by Lotte Lehmann, Maria Oczewska, Elisabeth Schumann and Richard Mayr, with the Vienna Philharmonic conducted by Robert Heger (Pearl GEMM CDS 9365, £22.49).

Finally, Karajan's 1956 recording of Verdi's *Falstaff* has lightness of touch and precision of ensemble (EMI CDS 7 49668-2, £31.99).

● To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to: FREEPOST, SCO681, Fortes, IV36 0BR or phone 0245 023-498; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk
● Next Saturday on Radio 3 (pm): A Poulenc song survey



This leads me to the performance of Strauss's *Ariadne auf Naxos* in Vienna on the composer's 80th birthday in 1944. Irmsgard Seefried is incomparable as the Composer, Maria Reining a radiant Ariadne. Karl Böhm conducts (Preisler 9027, £14.49).

I cannot imagine any recording collection without Wilhelm Furtwängler conducting the Philharmonia in *Tristan und Isolde*, with Kirsten Flagstad and Ludwig Suthaus (EMI CDS 7 47322-8, £61.99).

Also a must is Bruno Walter's 1952 recording of Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde*, with Kathleen Ferrier and Julius Patzak. Ferrier, already a dying woman, was transfigured by the music (*Decca* 444 194-2, £15.49).

Sir John Barbirolli's 1966 *Rome* conducted by Puccini's *Madam Butterfly* with Renata Scott and Carlo Bergonzi has insights which I find nowhere else. Scott responds with one of the finest Puccini performances on disc (EMI CMS 7 69654-2, £19.99).

Finally, Karajan's 1956 recording of Verdi's *Falstaff* has lightness of touch and precision of ensemble (EMI CDS 7 49668-2, £31.99).

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AROUND THE LONDON GALLERY

IN 1995 Francisco Clemente set himself, like a prophet in the wilderness, to spend 51 days on Mount Abu in north-west India. He painted a large watercolour each day, and this extended set is now on display at Anthony D'Offay. But the style, which mixes his earlier expressive painting with a long fascination for the tense, finely tuned detail of the Indian miniature, sits somehow strangely in such a loose and fluid medium. Often the structure, or point, of the picture seems to "wobble" and be about to collapse.

Anthony D'Offay Gallery During Street, London W1 (0171-694 4100) until May 31

THE speedy jump from obscurity to fame does not seem to have harmed Gillian Wearing's work. It seems a pity, however, to show her so soon again. The Chisenhale Gallery may insist that this is the first solo show in a public gallery, but familiarity can only undermine an excellent piece. The huge single screen shows a series of short films which, with greater sophistication and simplicity, still carry the Wearing atmosphere like a smelly, damp blanket. It is upsetting and effective to see and hear an apparently innocent adolescent or child's thought coming out of the synchronised lips of an adult. But disgust turns to wonder at this voyeuristic quality. A boy speaks through a grown man

of his special tree house; a little girl's voice comes through an adult woman's mouth to tell of her own relationship with her mother. Chisenhale Gallery, 64 Chisenhale Road, London E3 (0181-981 4518) until June 1

THERE are two conflicting tides to the understanding and enjoyment of Keith Tyson's work. On entering the gallery, the first impression is of a mass of images, grilles, grids, painting trays and plays between two and three dimensions. Later, this gives way to talk of an "art machine" and complicated labelling "clusters" of circular paintings linked by a drawn diagrammatic network. To the left of the door move on down the stairs in a spreading rash of painted, stuck, splattered and sprayed images. It is not great to discover that, somewhat like a kitchen sink Clemente, Tyson has painted one of these on a wooden breadboard each day, probably asking "What shall I do today?" in a bid to deliver non-meaning in the process. A painting on the far end wall, an enormous mock Picasso of a boggle-eyed artist in an extended cartoon frame, provides a hallucinatory dream, a picture within a picture. Anthony Reynolds Gallery, 5 Dering Street London (0171-491 0621) until May 31

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FILM

When *Kolya* won the Oscar for best foreign film, it meant the big time for a unique cinematic trio.



THEATRE

Joe Penhall's new comedy at the Bush, *Love and Understanding*, is more episodic soap than theatre.

THE TIMES ARTS

CHOICE 1

Patti LuPone is the divine Callas in the new McNally play, *Master Class*. VENUE: Opens tonight at the Queen's Theatre.



CHOICE 2

Chekhov's *Three Sisters* inspires a new dance from Aletta Collins. VENUE: Tonight at the Space Theatre.

CINEMA: Why is the Oscar-winning *Kolya* so different? Carol Allen meets the men behind it

Prague springs a surprise

The award of this year's Best Foreign Film Oscar to the Czech film *Kolya* was a substantial achievement on a number of fronts. It was the first Academy Award for the young Czech Republic, and the first to the Czech people for nearly 30 years, since Jiri Menzel's *Closely Observed Trains*. It also made its young director, Jan Sverák, the best-known Czech filmmaker since Menzel, Forman and Passer in the 1960s. And, curiously, it marked the first time that the best foreign film award had gone to a film with an English-speaking producer, Eric Abraham.

He and Sverák met when they both served on the jury of the 1992 Karlovy Vary film festival in Czechoslovakia. *Kolya* started as a couple of pages of outline which Jan sent me in 1994-95. Abraham says, "I was involved from the very early stages, right through the scripting. We wanted to keep it free of the compromises that seem to dog international co-productions, make it intelligible to an audience outside the Czech Republic without being patronising to the Czechs themselves, and to act as the foreign barometer."

The story deals with an irresponsible middle-aged bachelor who becomes the reluctant "adoptive" father of a five-year-old Russian boy, and takes place during the year leading up to the Velvet Revolution of 1989. When he came to shoot the film, Sverák found he was effectively making a period piece. Since the return of capitalism much has changed in Prague: the cars on the streets, the buildings, now freshly painted and adorned with advertising, even the design of a cartoon of milk.

There's no difference if you are shooting Prague before the revolution six years ago or if you are trying to create Prague during the Middle Ages, Sverák says. "It is effectively an historical movie." The screenplay was written by Sverák's father, Zdeněk, who also plays the leading role. His co-star is a little boy called Andrej Chalimon, found after an extensive hunt through Moscow kindergartens. Like his character, he speaks only Russian. "I wanted to cast a real Russian boy," Sverák Jr says, "because you can see that he's confused and lost; he has no idea what Papa is saying about when he's talking to him in Czech."



United notion: Jan Sverák, Eric Abraham and Zdeněk Svěrák, the two Czechs and a Briton who made *Kolya*

Like most Czechs, the Sveráks also speak Russian, which they learnt under the occupation. But the boy had never acted before, and when filming began he just sat in the middle of the set, grinning at the camera. It was up to Sverák Sr to teach him the tricks of the trade. "I told him: 'Imagine that you are alone in this strange city without friends and without parents, and I saw in his eyes that he really imagined this and he was excellent. After shooting I shook his small hand and told him, 'You are an actor now.'"

This is the third film on which the Sveráks have collaborated. Sverák Sr wrote and appeared in *Elementary School*, for which his son received an Oscar nomination, and was co-writer

of *Accumulator 1*. "They are best friends," Abraham says. "They have the kind of relationship we would all have liked to have had with our fathers."

The film has broken box office records in its own country, where it has done twice as much business as its nearest rival, *Independence Day*. Since opening in America in January it has grossed more than \$4 million - a remarkable achievement for a foreign language film.

It's a very universal tale of two individuals from different backgrounds, different generations, different cultures, who have to learn to live

with each other and ultimately come to love each other," explains Abraham. "A little boy makes a man in his mid-fifties realise the rewards that come with taking on the commitment of another human being. I think everyone can relate to that."

Abraham and Sverák Jr are currently working together on several possible projects, including a new screenplay by the director's father to be made in English. This raises the possibility that Jan Sverák, who was a 25-year-old film student when the Velvet Revolution changed the destiny of his country, could one day find himself collecting another Oscar, this time for a mainstream commercial film.

• *Kolya* opens on Friday

A send-up of life's priorities

There is a scene towards the end of Joe Penhall's new play where a recently split young couple meet over the hospital trolley of a mutual friend in intensive care. As Neal and Rachel argue over who should get custody of the work, the body suddenly sits up, and sings: "There may be trouble ahead... tonight, and music... laughter, romance... let's face the music and dance."

Alack, I'm lying about the last bit. But I can't help feeling that a little more magic realism might have served Penhall's three-hander well. Richie does sit up, he does

have a life-saving epiphany, but singing the theme tune to a well-known insurance company advert on television is not it.

How these three got here is the cornerstone of Penhall's comedy. It's simple enough. A pair of overworked young doctors, Neal and Rachel, are visited by the sponger from last night, Richie, a hack journalist, arrives on the doorstep, having spent all his money and a lot of time being unpleasant in exotic parts of the world. Neal,

insinuates himself into their lives like a tapeworm. Stealing drugs from the hospital fridge, seducing the bored Rachel, he effortlessly abuses Neal's pitiable nature. Nicolas Tennant's hapless northerner is reduced to a pin cushion of professional and personal anxieties.

Penhall cleverly sends up the way we prioritise our lives. It is the best part of what is a wholly predictable scenario. Celia Robertson's prosaic Rachel would like a social life. "I

love Neal," she says half-heartedly to ward off Richie. "We've got a mortgage. It is serious." Mike Bradwell directs with unimpeachable style. He wrings the comedy out of the characters, the angst out of his actors. But he never quite shakes the suspicion that this is anything but an elaborate piece of self-advertising by a skilled copywriter. It beats selling insurance, sure, but maybe Penhall will write a piece of theatre next time rather than an episodic soap.

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I can't defend the past; I can unite the party

John Redwood says he is the only Conservative leader who could concentrate on opposing Labour

There are two questions on every Conservative's mind. Why was the defeat so bad, and how can we win again after such a defeat? We must understand the past but not dwell on it. It is time for some explanation, but not for re-priming. We all feel a sense of loss. It is like being at the bedside when a well loved relative has been badly hurt. It doesn't help to hurl insults or abuse the doctors.

The opinion polls turned out this time to be deadly accurate. There is no reason to doubt what they were telling us over the whole five years of the Parliament. They were confirmed in every by-election, by council elections and by the European Parliament elections. All told us the same story. We lost massive support at the end of 1992 when Britain was thrown out of the European exchange-rate mechanism, and we never found a way of recovering that support. The public doubted the Government's competence because the main economic policy went wrong. Then they doubted the Government's word, because taxes had to go up to pay for the damage done by the recession.

I wanted the Government to apologise for this mistake, and to keep VAT down, as promised in the 1992 election. I was unsuccessful in making my case within government. So in 1995 when John Major resigned, I made the difficult decision to give up my Cabinet job. I tried to shock the Government into a change of tone, style and policy. I hoped that it would generate the change we needed to have a chance of winning the general election. We went up in the polls during that leadership contest, and returned to the original levels only after I had lost.

Today I want to offer the Conservative Party hope for the future. I am the only Conservative likely to run in this leadership election who could face Tony Blair across the dispatch box and put down endless difficult questions about the 1992-97 Government. I do not have to defend past mistakes, because I resigned from that Government. I would be able to point the Conservative Party firmly towards the future, and concentrate on opposing.

I have spent time considering whether I could do the job of leading the party, and how I would do it. It will not be easy. It requires some goodwill from all members of the parliamentary and wider party. We need to develop the will to win, to put in the work that is needed in every town, village and street. We need to remember why we joined Conservative politics in the first place. After the battering of recent years, we need to be reminded that politics can be enjoyable and rewarding.

Could I unite this party of ours? Yes I could. In many ways our party is more united today than throughout the

long years of government. Stephen Dorrell and I do not disagree about economic policy in the way that the "west" and "dries" did in the 1980s. Ken Clarke and I do not disagree about the need for excellence in our schools and hospitals, with the bills met by the taxpayer. The only issue that causes us strains is the issue of Europe.

In government, the lack of a clear line on Europe pulled the party apart. Everyone knew the country was on the threshold of major decisions, but no one could be sure how the Government would approach those decisions. This encour-

should set out a positive programme for a Europe with more jobs and more trade. We want a common market, not a common government.

We should remember that health and education dominated many a doorstep conversation, as we found in the past few weeks just how accurate those polls were. Labour has aroused unrealistic expectations about improvements in schools and hospitals. We must hold them to account, demanding they fulfil their promises. We must show some humility in the face of the electorate's judgment, and show nationally and locally that we are committed to these services.

We can rebuild through local government. Last Thursday we had some victories in councils across the country. In my constituency we won 19 of the 26 seats on offer: a victory for good council candidates. We won on a promise that more money would go directly to the schools. It was a council dominated by the Liberal Democrats and by Labour that had shortchanged schools, withholding from them some of the government grant. People saw the humbug and voted for some practical answers to the shortages of teachers and books.

I would ask every constituency to consider appointing a parliamentary spokesman or a parliamentary candidate for the next election, so that we have a political leader in every part of our country. I would ask defeated MPs who are willing to offer their help in their constituencies to begin the fightback. I will scour the country for the new talent and the younger legs we need to establish ourselves again as the most important political party in local government. By so doing we can prove our willingness to serve, and rebuild the roots of our party. The leadership must listen to the views of the membership, and use the membership's wisdom and experience fully.

Our task is awesome in scale. I have not decided quickly or lightly to stand. I know that the job will be tough, and that the path will be long and hard. We must ensure that the massive loss of MPs on May Day 1997 marks the conclusion of the long run of electoral failures, and that the election of all those new councillors marks the beginning of a new run of greater electoral success.

In sadness at the size of our defeat, in humility before the verdict of the people, but with optimism for our future, I put myself forward as a candidate for the leadership of the Conservative Party. It has been and will be a great party. Its job is far from done. Britain needs a strong Opposition. It needs a strong future. It will need an alternative government. There is work to do. Please help me to do it.

Anatole Kaletsky's column will appear tomorrow.



In sadness at the size of our defeat, in humility at the verdict of the people, but with optimism for the future, I put myself forward for the leadership



Cheers! Now for the bill

We shall have to think twice about skiing trips or private education

Oh, what a night! We were no longer timid, grumbling sheep, but lived one day as tigers. With a boldness that took the world's breath away the British electorate stepped into the unknown. We took a hammer to Granny Thatcher's crazed old dinner-service, knocked through the dividing wall and opened new vistas. All night, with great swinging axe-blows, the mighty were humbled; next day the sun shone and the young leader walked through cheering crowds. The vanquished left gracefully, and the victors did not crow.

Even Tory supporters felt it, because such moments of cathartic national feeling are for everyone. We have earned ours, after looking on with other nations enjoying historic catharsis: we saw Lech Walesa and the dockworkers kneeling in prayer at the shipyard gates in Gdansk, the Berlin Wall crumbling, Mandela's election, Vaclav Havel's first speech to a free Czechoslovakia. We felt a bit left out. Now we have had a proper political May Day revel of our own, with even the losers relaxing into the wild abandon of it all. Cecil Parkinson made a magnificent joke when Jeremy Paxman — oddly bloodless, his cynical power diminished by the spirit of the night — nagged him about party "squabbles". "There may not be enough of us by tomorrow," said Lord Parkinson gently, "to have a good squabble." And at dawn in his constituency, John Major giggled and said boyishly: "Oh, all right, so we lost! A surge of warmth flowed towards him from every political direction."

Down in this deep blue Tory shire (yes, Houdini Gummer survived, just), one odd symptom of euphoria was the number of people who, with that uniquely inarticulate British way of showing emotion, decided on Friday morning that it was time to worm their dogs and horses. Something to do with a sense of cleansing. I met one liberal-left neighbour doing just that, syringe in hand, and she dreamily said: "There is a new spirit of warmth and unity in the air today. I can tell this, because I am feeling sorry for Michael Portillo." In cities, others reported shock at seeing beggars on the streets because "everything should have changed". An 80-year-old friend of mine, leaving the country on holiday, rang to say goodbye in case it proves to be the last time. He is not notably leish but said "Nunc dimittis. I could go happily now. My

country feels younger, and safer." During this pantomime transformation, as networks of power and influence crumbled and cheerful kids in baseball caps invaded the grim fastnesses of 10 Downing Street, we glanced back grudgingly at the screens to see ourselves winning the Eurovision Song Contest by another landslide, with a song going "Cmon everybody, shine a light, in every corner". Collapse of emotional nation: even Peter Mandelson must feel that it has gone far enough now.

Well, an eruption of happiness does nobody any harm. But the euphoria will fade and the broad middle class which swept Labour to victory now has facts to face. We have commissioned the new rulers to restore the fabric and the standard of schools and hospitals, to revive derelict cities and protect the countryside, to bring a lost generation home to lawfulness and work. They cannot do this just by taxing the fattest cats and windfall-taking public utilities. It is true that Gordon Brown has some wonderfully fat targets to aim at, unpublishable sacred cows of the old Tory heartland such as the £250 million of "reinvestment relief" on capital gains tax which landowners still get when they sell land at a vast profit for building or gravel and roll over the profit into buying more land. There are European rackets such as set-aside and subsidised non-food crops such as flax (which is often not even harvested, but ploughed back in once the subsidy is banked). The super-rich still have plentiful tax loopholes.

But this will not be enough. Mr Brown also has to hit the parlous socialists, old and new, who quizzically voted for him. There are a lot of people who genuinely prospered under Conservatism, but equally genuinely decided to blow the whistle on it. They are going to have to pay up. This means you, perhaps: it certainly means me. The Chancellor may not raise tax rates, but there is no promise on thresholds or allowances. In particular, all the freelances and contractors

and small entrepreneurs who proliferated in the short-contract culture of recent years now pay tax on Schedule D, and do rather well out of it. Mr Brown may well decide to limit — say to £10,000 — the allowances and reliefs that any one taxpayer may claim. That would hit nearly a million people. Or he could restrict relief on all that home-as-office use, mobile phones, photocopying, taxi-driving, "newspapers and magazines, professional need", "wardrobe-and-hairdressing", and so on, to the lowest tax rate, so saving us crafty swines only 23p instead of 40p in the pound. All this before he even starts carving away at mortgage interest relief. I worked it out: my own tax could rapidly rise by the amount we spend, say, on the beloved boat. For others it will be equally beloved school fees that are threatened, or the second car, or the horse-

or the skiing, or the Marks & Spencer food hall habit. If the Chancellor's judgment is good, it will not eat into the legitimate needs and small deserved luxuries of most families, but it will be a fine balance.

We have to face it. We voted for the common good: for good free schools, health-care that doesn't shame us, cities that work, prisons that rehabilitate, a clean environment, safe streets. We certainly didn't elect a vengeful, chippy, 1970s version of Labour, full of class hatred and Denis Healey's yearning to squeeze the rich "till the pips squeak", but we did vote for improvements that will cost us money. Not some anonymous fat cat: us. I am eliminating some profligate habits right now, in preparation.

I am not as cynical as some. I do not think that when the shoe pinches a little, the middle classes will necessarily run squealing back to Nanny Tory. I honestly believe that the nation turned to social democracy because it saw how pointless and dangerous the social division is that has encroached on us. It is no fun on the middle-class island if the waters around have grown

so dangerous that you are compelled by fear to use your money on car alarms, private schools, health insurance, steel gates and burglar alarms. I think that we will pay up cheerfully — on one condition.

That is that new Labour is seen to be both effective and frugal. The Tories underestimated the sheer rage of middle Britain at their profligacies: at the billions wasted on setting up an unworkable poll tax and dismantling it, on getting into the exchange-rate mechanism and dropping out again, on protracted judicial inquiries into their own seamy dishonesties, on stupid patronising government advertising, on the bureaucracy of the NHS and on propping up ideologically driven privatisations. Just as employees in a big corporation resent cuts in their own departmental budgets and their own pay while the top management keeps spending long weekends doing "target-focus-analysis awareness training" in country hotels, so the taxpayer cannot bear arrogant profligacy in its leaders.

So far at least the new team exudes an air of energy, modesty and purpose. Frank Field's appearance at the DSS is cheering: he is not a man to throw money about. Gordon Brown has a satisfyingly dour, virtuous look about him, the sort of family lawyer you would trust with the client account. It is hard to imagine David Blunkett or Jack Straw or Clare Short ordering lavish spending on frumpy chartermarks and logos (although Harriet Harman might need watching). If Mr Mandelson's brief really has shifted from PR to progress-chasing, I hope that part of it involves stamping on schemes that look, or are, wasteful.

As for meaningful early gestures, I held my breath for two days while it seemed that perhaps the leaked plan to extend the No 10 flat for the family Blair would be confirmed. It was not: the incomers ignored all chattering about tradition and the constitutional importance of the PM sleeping as close as possible to portraits of Lord Salisbury, and cheerfully decamped to No 11. Gordon Brown, we are told, doesn't much care where he sleeps or whether children are playing in his garden.

It was a good start. They made do and improvised, started from where they were, dumped a dusty tradition in favour of common sense, and spent no money. Brilliant! Middle Britain expects no less. And if we now behave cheerfully about postponing the kitchen extension and binning the second-holiday brochures, we deserve no less.

Libby Purves

THE NEW

THE ACROSS

AS JACKDAW

Too too much

LORD STERLING OF PLAISTOW has caused an agitated spate of rum-flapping with a national newspaper advertisement for his ferry company, P&O, which suggests that a boat trip to the Continent costs less than a night at the ballet.

As chairman of P&O, Lord Sterling presumably approved the advertisements, but as a governor of the Royal

Ballet and chairman of the Royal Ballet School's board of governors, he might have been expected to be more supportive of dance in the theatre.

The Society of London Theatre has complained to the Advertising Standards Authority about the series of ads, the latest of which reads: "Swan off abroad for less than a performance of Swan Lake."



Swan Lake: but are the tickets so very expensive?

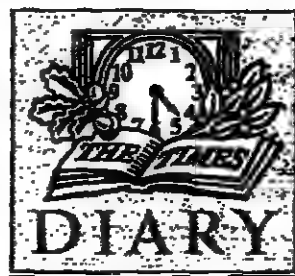
Rupert Rhymes, the society's chief executive, complains: "It's not very good that a company which makes its money out of the tourist trade advertises against another section of tourism."

Lord Sterling was not available for comment yesterday, and the Royal Ballet was not prepared to give any reaction. But expect some vigorous pique from Sterling at forthcoming board meetings with the ballet and its school.

Well-wishers who sent congratulatory messages to Tony Blair's Islington address should not despair if they don't receive a reply. With the advent of a new government, the local sorting office has gone on strike.

Explosive

IN a triumphalist gesture, the German town of Essen is using a franking stamp featuring a sinister-looking Zeppelin hovering over the Houses of Parliament. The stamp is to celebrate the launch of a stamp-collecting exhibition in Essen which concentrates on

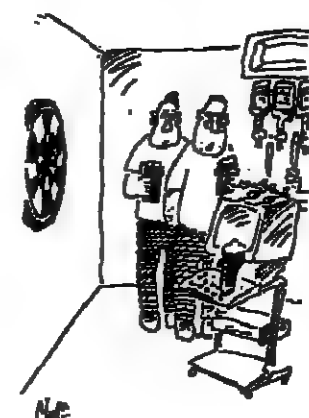


images of aviation. The Zeppelin hovers over Westminster with the words "London, 1932" beneath, signifying the date of the maiden flight of the airship from Germany to London. "We've no need of being reminded how close those Jerries are to our Parliament," grumbles one old peer.

Stand up

ALTHOUGH he was never at his best on television, a relaxed John Major is seen by experts as a saleable commodity on the after-dinner speaking circuit. Those in the know suggest that he could pick up £40,000 for an evening's work, and more if he were prepared to stand on his soap box.

Major's honest John image may have brought the worst poll result for the Conservatives in 165 years, but it will stand him in good stead after the feast. Friends in office have always been impressed by his impromptu addresses at drinks parties for staff who are leaving and agents suggest he could charge almost as much as Baroness Thatcher, despite her wider international appeal.



"I bet Kasparov could beat the computer at darts"

Barry Cryer, who will this week receive the Macallan/Horne Farm Trust Soap Box award, says Major has talent. "He may cry and eat the wall-paper at home, but he is a picture of calm and affability as an after-dinner speaker," says Cryer. "There's silly money about, and he may be in the top bracket in spite of having lost the election." Two of his former Cabinet colleagues, John Gummer and Michael Howard, are priced more sensibly at £5,000.

Swap slot

THERE is a precedent to the house-swapping of Tony Blair and Gordon Brown. The idea, that Brown, as a bachelor Chancellor, moves into the flat above No 10 while the Blairs move en famille to the capacious quarters of No 11 is not unlike Benjamin Disraeli's domestic arrangements.

Elected Prime Minister in 1874, Dizzy agreed to the swap, because he had no family to house, and in those days, the flat at No 10 was larger than that at No 11. Conversely, his stout and prolific Chancellor,



Northcote and Disraeli: swapped accommodation

Sir Stafford Northcote, needed the room for his wife and brood of eight children. "Ten Downing Street is the official residence of every British Prime Minister, but Lord Beaconsfield [Disraeli] was now a widower with no children," writes Anne Wolrige Gordon in *Dame Flora*, the story of Northcote's daughter. "The two men had, therefore, agreed to exchange houses."



yesterday, I trust that they spared a thought for John Major, who had shifted all files from his Downing Street offices by lunchtime on Friday. There was nowhere for him to put his clobber, because Blair didn't clear out the Leader of the Opposition's office until Sunday night. The machinery of what was the Government spent a weekend locked in transit vans.

As the removal men took the Blair belongings to No 10

P-H-S



THE NEW LEADER

Tories must lose no time in choosing a healer and a fighter

The first step the Conservatives must take if they are to prove an effective opposition is to elect an effective leader. The Tory party has been weakened by that addition. Some may still prefer an extended period of decision-making before the candidate best suited to counter Tony Blair is chosen. But there is no time for that. And that is no bad thing.

The small band of surviving Tory MPs must make their judgment on what they know of their would-be leaders already. It would be foolish of the Tories and a forfeit of opposition duty if they were handicapped in attacking Labour over the summer because they were still fighting themselves.

Already Labour has begun moves to bring Britain within the operation of the social chapter. In the weeks ahead, and at the Amsterdam summit, the new Government could preside over significant transfers of sovereignty. It would be damaging to party and country not to subject Labour's stance to the most vigorous and pointed scrutiny.

The need to oppose with as much coherence and force as can be mustered makes it necessary for the Conservatives to adopt a line on the single currency which does not allow divisions to fester. As we have already argued, Kenneth Clarke's proposal to allow a free vote in the future is a formula for sectarianism in the Tory party. It is much more sensible to rule out membership for the lifetime of this Parliament. That will provide clarity now while allowing those who believe monetary union is inevitable and desirable the chance to argue for entry only after a single currency had proved it was as attractive as its advocates hoped.

Finding the right position on Europe, however, is only a necessary and very far from a sufficient pre-condition for recovering power. The party of One Nation must prove it is not just the party of one issue. To that end the emphasis placed on other policies by John Redwood is welcome. Mr Redwood's intellect should prove invaluable in plotting a Conservative recovery, but helpful as his diagnosis is, his credentials as the healer who can make the Tory party whole again, are still unproven. It is still not easy to

see how a party led by Mr Redwood could make the most of Kenneth Clarke's undoubted talents. It is also still difficult to discern how Mr Clarke himself could play the healer rather than the bruiser; but both men should continue to play a vital part in keeping the Tory base broad and its punch hard.

What is required is a leader capable of welding together a Shadow Cabinet of all the talents, or at least all those who prefer the clash of arms with the enemy to the sulking in their seminar room. Michael Howard's skill with a brief and taste for the jugular combine with a private thoughtfulness to make him an impressive contender. He is, however, associated in the public's minds with the last Government's harsher face and more authoritarian instincts. He must convince the Conservative MPs who know his talents that the wider public can be made to appreciate them as well. William Hague has shown himself adept at avoiding controversy and an amiable administrator. But his lack of experience is all too visible to his colleagues and the country alike.

Peter Lilley is one of the few Conservatives whose reputation rose steadily throughout the last Parliament and who left it with a solid legislative record and the respect for those who had been his opponents. Already in the leadership campaign he has shown sensitivity to the reasons for Tory unpopularity. If the public truly registered a vote last week against aggressive Punch and Judy politics, his tone may be more appropriate than Mr Howard's. Mr Lilley has proven instincts for the freedom of individuals and markets. He has not yet, however, shown that he can quicken the pulse and inspire the unconverted.

From the field available there is no sure and perfect choice; but a fruitless and prolonged search for the best should not be the enemy of the good. Ideally, a new leader should provide an intellectual framework for his lieutenants to operate within, allowing them to hit the opposition hard while he imbues the party with a new sense of purpose. In the weeks ahead, and there should be as few of them as possible, such a leader will have a chance to prove himself.

VOTES ACROSS THE CHANNEL

The French watch the British experiment with fascination

It was almost as though our election was happening in France. The British campaign was followed with intense interest across the Channel. Top commentators took up residence in London, camera crews followed the candidates all round the country, and newspapers devoted entire issues to the state of Britain today. For Tony Blair's landslide is being examined for implications far beyond these shores. On the lips of every commentator in France are three urgent questions. What kind of neighbour will a Labour-governed Britain become? What are the implications for the Left in Europe? And has a massive blockage on the path to European integration been removed?

Nowhere are the questions more insistent than in France. The French parliamentary elections are now in full swing, and all sides are trying to draw lessons from an almost simultaneous general election on the other side of the Channel. The Right jumped in first. Alain Juppé, the embattled Prime Minister desperate to kick-start a sluggish campaign, said Tony Blair had won only because he had abandoned the outdated dogma still shackling the French Socialists. He claimed Mr Blair as a fellow centrist.

The Socialists in turn have pointed to the catastrophic electoral consequences of a Government that tried to cut social security benefits and ignore the trade unions and European Union social legislation. They have warmly welcomed Labour's prompt readiness to sign the social chapter and greeted Mr Blair as "one of us." France, which has seen less of Mr Blair than British

audiences, has been bowled over by his youth, smile and freshness, as well as his ability to speak French and the discovery that he once worked as a barman in Paris.

All sides want to bask in the reflected glory. What neither side is willing to admit, however, is that the British election has become such a talking point because the French election is proving extremely dull. About a third of those asked still do not know how they will vote. And the reason for this apathy is that the real issue of the campaign — European economic and monetary union — has not been discussed. No politician, except the Communists and Le Pen's National Front, is willing to question the wisdom of the sacrifices needed to achieve the Maastricht criteria.

All saw the central place Europe played in Britain's election and await Labour's decisions on EMU. Mr Blair's stance will be seized on either by the Government or the Opposition to give vital support to their embattled positions. This is as true in EU countries ruled by the Left, such as Sweden, as those ruled by the Centre-Right, such as Germany, where EMU is equally a submerged electoral theme.

The overriding interest everywhere, however, is how Mr Blair will change Britain. The United Kingdom has been an awkward political partner but also a vibrant culture, powerfully attracting young Europeans. With a new, young leader, Britain is all the more seen as a society setting the pace for Europe. Our closest neighbours are watching with fascination.

MAN'S JACKDAW INSTINCT

Collections of any old rope can be documents of human interest

Man is an animal who collects things; and woman too, though she may be less obsessive about completing sets. On page 18 today Richard Cork reviews an exhibition of the collecting craze being shown across London. In national warehouses of objects, from the British Museum to Selfridges, there are displays of what collectors collect. They display the craze for assemblages from old bottles to objects made from cutting and splicing hair, which sound more collectible than desirable.

But a thing need not be valuable or even desirable to be collected. It can be as cheap as a beermat or as useless as the thin end of a necktie. Small boys start with football stickers and some never even move on to collect CDs. Before the silent spring of agribusiness made the pursuit illegal, collecting birds' eggs combined the treasure hunt with natural history. To become collectible, a thing needs only to be widespread and to have variations to satisfy the urges to swap and classify. From these come the proliferation of flea markets and antiques programmes on television. One man's junk is another man's collectible. For a collector is just a Don Juan who has transferred his passion.

The collector's urge is usually irrational. An authentic autograph of Shakespeare is sold for many thousands of pounds. But a schoolchild can read *Hamlet* for nothing. The National Lottery paid millions for the Churchill papers, which could be made

cheaply available to scholars by facsimile and the Internet. No auctioneer can value the future of collections. The theatrical furniture and slides of urinals on show in London seem to lack purpose. But without old curiosity-shoppers such as Elias Ashmole, Viscount Fitzwilliam with his armour, and John Soane, our museums would be poorer temples of the Muses and history.

For two centuries the Yorke family of Erddig in Clwyd collected portraits of their household servants captioned with descriptive verses. To the neighbours their collection seemed eccentric. But today the Yorke pictures form a priceless record of life below stairs. Elizabeth, Countess of Shrewsbury, was a powerful woman who saw four husbands to the grave. But she was also a great female collector. Without Bess of Hardwick Hall, we should not have the unique record of needlework and tapestries that she and her women stitched in the long evenings of the 16th and 17th centuries.

Without the collectors of the Dark Ages we should have even less of the literature of the ancient world. So mock not the collectors. Neither literature nor art is injured by their follies. They may preserve the worthless, but they also protect the good. For man records his history by his trivial collections. Future generations of scholars and ordinary cultural trippers will find our collections illuminating as well as astonishing.

Social chapter as a threat to 'paradise'

From Mrs Virginia Bottomley, MP for Surrey South West (Conservative)

Sir, The first policy announcement by the new Labour Government is their decision to sign the European social chapter. We may expect more such concessions to satisfy and to reward the unions behind the flag of European co-operation.

Many supported and recognised John Major's negotiating triumph in securing British control in employment matters. They will view with dismay the potential damage to employment and future prosperity from the loss of flexibility in offering and accepting work.

Major companies from around the world have settled in Britain in confirmation of Jacques Delors's prophecy that we would become "a paradise for forward investment" without social chapter burdens.

The idea mooted by Mr Blair over this week-end of appointing Sir David Simon, a distinguished international businessman, for advice on European matters (report, Business, May 5) may be sensible; but Labour would be well advised to listen to their friends such as Gerry Robinson of Granada or Sir Terence Conran about the need to be able to offer employment without unnecessary burdens.

The greatest number of new jobs is to be found in the service sector. Tourism and hospitality, along with media and film, have become widely recognised successes. They rely on a flexible labour market.

As Robin Cook argues for flexibility in Europe, he should be tough on the obstacles to employment. Large established companies may not object publicly to interference and rules from Brussels, but obligations and loss of flexibility can be lethal for start-up and service businesses.

Yours faithfully,
VIRGINIA BOTTOMLEY
House of Commons.
May 5.

Improving the NHS

From Mr John Pantall

Sir, Both the public and health professionals will eagerly await the new Government's actions on improving the NHS. Parts of the agenda are clear: streamlining the management of NHS organisations, restoring local accountability, achieving strategic integration of service developments at health authority level, simplifying the internal market.

However, a major area of ongoing change relates to the rearrangement of services, determining which hospitals are closed and which beds remain accessible.

Some of the arguments for the parallel processes of centralisation (eg, of cancer services) and outreach services are strong. In many cases, however, there is no substantial evidence that either clinical or cost-effectiveness will increase as a result of creating larger, more remote centres. For much of the work of general hospitals there is no automatic increase in effectiveness above 200 beds or so.

The process of reviewing hospital provision and consequential reconfiguration must be based on an approach which is evidence-based and negotiated with all stakeholders, including the public. Otherwise the new Government is likely to go down in history as the great closer of hospitals.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN PANTALL
Health Services Management Unit,
Devonshire House,
University Precinct Centre,
Oxford Road, Manchester.
May 2.

Central Asian unrest

From Dr George D. Brown

Sir, I read your report today of the assassination attempt on President Enomali Rakhmonov of Tajikistan, a former Soviet independent republic in Central Asia, with sorrow but not surprise.

The pseudo-democratic, newly emerging republics of this region are almost always headed by entrenched former Communists. Having seized power, they suppress political opposition while their frustrated citizens await the promised benefits of glasnost and perestroika amid worsening scenes of social squalor and violence.

In nearly seven years since independence, while the West has attempted to play with "expertise" these potentially very oil and mineral-rich republics, living standards have fallen rapidly. Growing corruption has been fuelled by non-payment of wages, hyper-inflation, high unemployment and impatience for political change.

Blatant and common misuse of presidential authority has brought fear and oppression to the region, secured by the former KGB, the police and the internal militia. Until real democracies are established in republics like Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, I feel regretfully that we shall witness many more such symptoms of discontent.

Sincerely,
GEORGE BROWN
(Visiting Professor of Economics,
University of Kazakhstan),
2 Alston Close, Four Oaks,
Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands.
May 1.

Tories confronting a bleak outlook

From Mr Jeremy Catto

Sir, The Conservative Party in Parliament can derive nutriment from its current irrelevance. It needs time, intelligence and hard work to redefine its basic beliefs, in a series of exercises of the kind undertaken by R. A. Butler in 1945-49 or Margaret Thatcher in 1975-79. It is thus unfortunate that Mr Major has chosen this moment to give up the leadership, when the choice of a new leader ought to follow, not precede, at least the first stages of the party's painful reappraisal.

If, however, there has to be a new leader now, his or her primary task will be working out the fundamentals, and not short-term and self-indulgent posturing by the usual bruisers, now reduced to featherweight, against the massive forces of their opponents. The Conservative Party does not need to exist. It has to prove that it deserves to.

Yours etc,
JEREMY CATTO,
Oriel College, Oxford
May 3.

From Mr Hugo Summerson and others

Sir, Most people who lose their jobs are entitled to statutory redundancy payments based on length of service; those who work for modern, enlightened organisations will also receive help in the form of outplacement or career management. By contrast, Members of Parliament who lose their seats get a redundancy payment, but nothing more until they are of pensionable age. Some of them will not have been able to take out mortgage protection insurance, due to the unstable nature of political tenure.

If we are to expect people of probity and ability to represent our interests at Westminster, should we not, in return, make sure that they are given appropriate help when they lose office as a result of the democratic process? Support services should be made available to the 135 Members of Parliament who have lost their jobs.

Yours faithfully,
HUGO SUMMERSON
and others

Wheel clamping on private property

From Mr Harry Harris

Sir, Leonard Jason-Lloyd ("Clamp down on highwaymen", Law, April 29) seeks to bring the criminal law to the rescue of the unfortunate motorist whose car has been clamped on private land. I believe that civil law, too, may provide such assistance.

The essence of wheel-clamping on private land is that a mutual trespass has taken place: the motorist has caused his vehicle to trespass onto land whose owners in turn (through the agency of their hired clamping) have committed trespass upon and seek to retain the vehicle until damages representing the value of inconvenience suffered by the vehicle trespasser are recovered from the owner of the vehicle.

Since the owner of the land is under a duty to mitigate his own loss and not compound it, he can hardly claim damages for the time during which the vehicle is prevented from leaving his land. I also believe that the car owner could mount a claim in the civil court for damages representing the cost of hiring and/or acquiring a comparable alternative vehicle.

Such a claim would very quickly swamp the relatively nominal or modest claim for trespass damage suffered by the land owner.

Yours faithfully,
HARRY HARRIS (solicitor),
1st Floor, 384 Washway Road,
Sale, Greater Manchester.
April 29.

Italy's monarchy

From Professor Charles Arnold-Baker

Sir, I hope that republicans blush that only now can the heir to the Italian throne enter his own country (report, May 1). They insist he is a citizen but have refused him citizens' rights as defined by the EU.

A debate on the Italian monarchy is now possible for the first time. In the 1946 plebiscite (later admitted in Parliament to have been improperly conducted) nearly 45 per cent of the total vote went for the King, but more than 65 per cent of the south, including Rome, was for monarchy because the King was the instrument of Mussolini's overthrow, and everyone knew that he had hated him.

The Italian Supreme Court was constitutionally required to declare the result of the plebiscite, but has never done so. It is therefore arguable that there is no Italian republic and that Prince Vittorio Emanuele is in fact the King of Italy.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
CHARLES ARNOLD-BAKER,
2 Paper Buildings,
Inner Temple, EC4.
May 2.

Hogging the road

From Mr Robert Mudie

Sir, Why is it that the car in front of me is invariably driven by a slow, obstinate "crest-hugger", while the car behind me is driven by an impatient maniac?

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT MUDIE,
Charlcombe, Brook, Surrey.
May 3.

Now is the time for the new Parliament to embrace the challenges of being a modern employer.

Yours faithfully,
HUGO SUMMERSON
(Speaker skills consultant;
Conservative MP, 1987-92),
ERIC DEAKINS
(Public relations consultant;
Labour MP, 1970-87),
JOHN EVANS
(Corporate psychologist; Liberal
parliamentary candidate, 1974),
31 Bedford Square, WCI.
May 2.

From Mr Bernard Buckle

Sir, In Scotland the Tories won four percentage points more of the total vote than the SNP and failed to win a single seat. The SNP won six seats and claim this as a mandate for complete Scottish independence. Nationally the Tories won three-quarters as much of the popular vote, but only one-third as many seats.

Do we now expect a conversion of the Tories to adopt some form of proportional representation (which would now presumably be thought unnecessary by Labour) and which the Tories have always rubbish?

The people have clearly voted tactically to get rid of a Tory administration, and did so because there is no system of voting which can directly represent their views.

Yours truly,
BERNARD BUCKLE,
Flat Five, 99 High Street,
Ventnor, Isle of Wight.

From Mr John D. Hicks

Sir, On the basis that if it is not hurting it is not working, can we now assume that finally something must be working?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN D. HICKS,
83 Albany Road, Redruth, Cornwall.
May 2.

Salary levels in charity sector

From Mr Jon Prentice

Sir, Surely any comment on charity salaries (report, April 25) should recognise that, whilst all charities have employees who work within an organisation structure and need to be paid, they do still fall into two categories: "genuine" charities, which act as channels for donations to their causes, and commercial organisations which sell services and generate revenue to which the notions of "cause" and "donations" are all but irrelevant, but which happen to enjoy charitable status.

The Institute of Personnel and Development, which heads your list of the ten charities with the highest-earning chief executives, belongs firmly in the latter category.

Yours faithfully,
JON PRENTICE
(Management consultant),
42a Arlington Road,
Eastbourne, East Sussex.
April 25.

From Mr David Graham

Sir, Whilst I do not condone excessive salaries in the charity sector, I disagree with the premise that high salaries are the price of success. I believe them to be the cause.

My firm has worked for 20 of the largest 50 charities in the UK, with a remit to increase efficiency. In our experience those with the most effective management deliver the best value to their donors.

If I were a charity trustee, I would seek to employ competent professional management and would expect to pay market rates. The worst enemy of best management practice in the charity sector is the well-meaning amateur.

Yours faithfully,
D. L. GRAHAM
(Managing Director),
The Cost Reduction Partnership,
175 Piccadilly, W1.
April 27.

From the Chief Executive of the Royal Opera House

Sir, Although the information on average Royal Opera House salaries in the *Baring Asset Management* guide to the *Top 3,000 Charities* is based on our 1995-96 annual report, it has been misinterpreted.

The quoted figure of £43,369 pa has been calculated, erroneously, by taking all payments to all individuals, including guest artists, producers and designers' fees, touring allowances and even redundancy costs, and dividing that by 1,000 — the number of permanent staff employed in that fiscal year.

In fact, only 77 of those earned in excess of £40,000 pa, and the average salary was £26,851 pa.

Yours faithfully,
GENISTA MCINTOSH,
Chief Executive,
Royal Opera House,
Covent Garden, WC2.
April 25.

Darwin, by a short leg

From Mr Peter Talbot Willcox

Sir, That lizards' legs have adapted to local conditions after their introduction to a group of Caribbean islands need not be doubted (report, May 1). But the more important question for Darwinians is whether an evolutionary transformation has ever produced what can unequivocally be recognised as a new species.

Evolutionism has become a dogma based upon inadequate knowledge.

Yours faithfully,
PETER TALBOT WILLCOX,
Thamescroft,
Sharnbrook, Northants.
May 2.

Hornor recalled

From Miss R. A. Stephenson

Sir, I see from your report "School's out for the well-behaved" (April 24, early editions) that pupils are to be given time out for a treat in return for good conduct. It is reassuring to know that the recycling of old practice into new educational initiatives is alive and well.

In the first years of this century my father, a pupil of a Yorkshire elementary school, was regularly let out early for his exemplary record. He went straight to the blacksmith's for his treat, a dish of his grandmother's warm prune pie.

Yours faithfully,
ROSALIE A. STEPHENSON,
4 Rothwell Road, Lincoln.

Early flowerer

From Mr W. R. Carver

Sir, Peter Brooke's cartoon today depicts our new Prime Minister as the Climbing Rose *Blairi* No. 2.

A grower's catalogue on my bookshelf describes the rose *Blairi* No. 2 as being "of Old Rose character, deep pink at the centre, paling at the edges... One good crop — a few flowers later."

I shall order one without delay.

Yours faithfully,
BILL CARVER,
Bidders Croft, Weland,
Malvern, Worcestershire.
May 3.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.



YORK HOUSE

May 5: The Duchess of Kent, Patron, UK Committee for UNICEF, this morning visited the Community Development Centre, Miesse, Boyes Town, Crossroads, Cape Town, Western Cape Province, South Africa.

Royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh will present the 1997 Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion and attend a celebration of 25 years of the Templeton prize, at Westminster Abbey at 6.25.

The Princess Royal, as President of Patrons, Crime Concern, will visit Tyndale Family Literacy Project at St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School, Walsend Road, North Shields, Tyne and Wear at 10.25 and Westgate Hill Primary School, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne at 11.30 as President. Save the Children Fund, will attend the Voluntary Reception and Newcastle City Appeal Fundraising Luncheon, The Mansion House, Newcastle upon Tyne, Tyne and Wear at 12.30 as President. Royal Yachting Association, will open Castlegate Quay and HM Coastguard Endeavour, Castlegate Quay Heritage Project, Riverside, Stockton-on-Tees, Co Durham at 3.00; and as Patron, National Association of Victim Support Schemes, will attend the play 'The Trial of Pinn and Mead', Court 4, Royal Courts of Justice, London WC2 at 7.00.

Princess Margaret, as Grand President, St John Ambulance, will open the Brierley Hill Divisional Headquarters, Bent Street, Brierley Hill, West Midlands at 2.45 and will open the Oldbury Divisional Headquarters, Birchfield Lane, Oldbury at 3.30.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Maximilien de Robespierre, French Revolution leader, Arras, 1758; Sigmund Freud, psychoanalyst, Freiberg (Pibor), Czechoslovakia, 1856; Stanley Morham, typographer and historian of *The Times*, Warrandale, Essex, 1889; Rudolf Valentino, film star, Castellana, Italy, 1895; Orson Welles, actor, director and producer, Kenosha, Wisconsin, 1915.

DEATHS: Cornelius Jansen, theologian, Ypres, 1586; Baron Alexander von Humboldt, explorer and scientist, Berlin, 1859; Henry David Thoreau, writer and naturalist, Concord, Massachusetts, 1862; Sir James Simpson, obstetrician, pioneer in the use

Birthdays today

Sir John Arnold, former President of the Family Division, 82; the Marquess of Bath, 66; General Sir Jeremy Blacker, 58; Mr Tony Blair, Prime Minister, 44; the Earl of Caledon, 42; Mr Roy Cooke, former director, Coventry School Foundation, 67; Professor Rosemary Cramp, archaeologist, 68; Miss Carol Ellis, QC, consulting Editor, *The Law Reports*, 68; Sir Frank Evers, former Bailiff of Jersey, 78; Mr Robert Fell, former chief executive, Stock Exchange, 70; Mr J.R. Henderson, former Lord-Lieutenant of Berkshire, 77; the Earl of Leicester, 61; Vice-Admiral Sir Hugh Mearns, 55; Miss Tracy Mulligan, fashion designer, 35; Lord Pender, 64; Miss Eleanor Platt, QC, 59; Mr Alan Ross, author, 75; Mr John S. Sadler, former chairman, Pearl Group, 67; Mr Graeme Souness, football manager, 44; the Right Rev John Taylor, former Bishop of St Albans, 65.

Lieutenant Colonel Colin Mitchell

A Memorial Service for Lieutenant Colonel Colin Mitchell will be held at St Columba's Church of Scotland, Port Street, London SW1, on Tuesday, May 20, at 11.30am.

Papplewick, Ascot

Papplewick celebrates its 50th Anniversary this year. Old Boys are invited to apply for tickets to a Drinks Party at The Caledonian Club, Halkin Street, SW1 on Thursday, June 12, at 6.30pm. For further details of this and other celebrations, please contact the Papplewick Association, 11, Burar (01344 2488), Opposite the Racecourse, the History of the School, is now available at £12.50 (+£1.50 p.p.).

Service appointments and university news are on the facing page



Michael Davies, the architect responsible for the work, looks around the restored grotto at Pontypool

Shell-studded grotto is shipshape again

By MARCUS BINNEY, ARCHITECTURE CORRESPONDENT

A SHELL grotto that took a hermit seven years to create has been restored by experts in just three months.

The igloo-shaped grotto, which stands in a field at the top of a hill at Pontypool Park, South Wales, was completed in 1944 and was regularly decorated with fresh moss. Until 1980 it was used for shooting parties, one attended by Edward VII, but in recent years has fallen victim to decay and vandalism.

The architect for the restoration, Michael Davies, said: "Three years ago it was like a bombed site. Though the windows had been boarded up, children had made holes in the roof, and were jumping in. All the exotic shells had been taken as souvenirs but you can see where they had been from impressions left in the plaster."

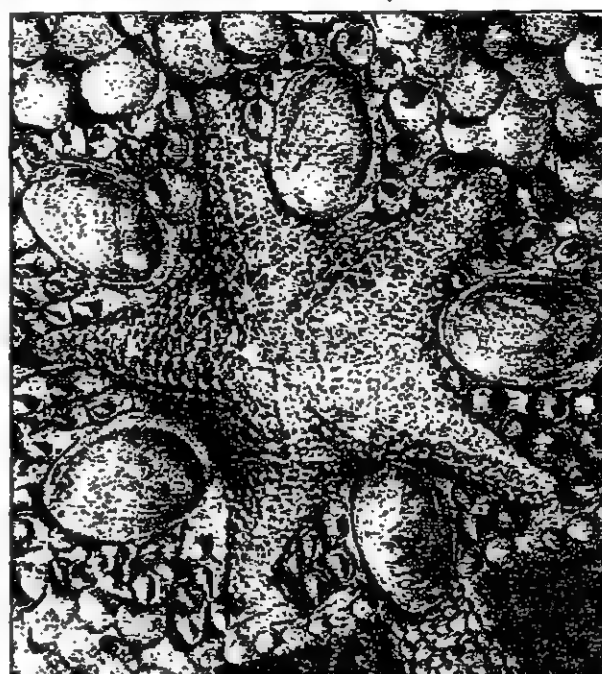
Despite the losses, about 70 per cent of the shells and pebbles used remained in place, set in elaborate geometric patterns. The interior was also studded with large lumps of coal and unusual minerals. "Big rocks were just stuck in the plaster, not mechanically fixed," says Mr Davies.

Craftsmen from Evershot, the specialist contractors, combed the country to collect whelk, mussel, cockle, oyster, and oyster shells. Many came from a dredging contractor in Cornwall who had a mountain of shells piled up in his yard.

These have been used to reform spiral patterns on the columns and to reshape artificial stalactites. There are also stalactites — actually upturned stalagmites cut out from real caves. Exotic conch, nautilus and abalone shells have been replaced.

As the debris was removed it exposed the original floor, made of animal bones and teeth (mainly horse and deer) laid in a pattern of arcs and stars. "The bones appear to have been broken in half to create a jagged end which could be driven into the earth's floor," Mr Davies said.

The walls of the grotto are also inset with curving tree branches, elm bosses, lumps of bark and ivy stems. "We have had to inject the ivy with syringes, using a mix of ether and resin to give it strength," Mr Davies said. "Filling every



Part of the carefully rebuilt shell-encrusted ceiling

tiny little worm hole has to be the most boring job in the world."

The £140,000 project, aided by a grant from the heritage lottery fund, was initiated by Torfaen Borough Council, the park's owners.

The architect of the eccentric structure was the curious, named Stephen Gunstan Tit of Bath. The grotto was commissioned by Molly Mackworth, whose hus-

band's ancestors were local iron masters who had bought the estate in the 16th century.

According to tradition, the grotto was painstakingly decorated over seven years by a hermit, if so, he must have been virtually the only hermit to survive the full seven years stipulated by Georgian landowners but then he had the rare comfort of a working fireplace with a proper chimney.

Institute of Physics

The following have been elected Fellows of the Institute of Physics: Dr Ronald Atkinson, Queen's University, Belfast; Professor Jonathan Michael Blackledge, De Montfort University; Dr C. Dolores Byrne, DERA; Mr Bryan Reginald Chapman, Leeds University; Dr John Christopher Earnshaw, Queen's University Belfast; Dr Roger Baden Hake, British Computer Society; Dr Shook-Ying Ho, Department of Defence, Australia; Professor S. Gerard Jennings, University College, Galway; Dr Michael Adrian Lee, Research Instruments Ltd; Professor Richard Lawrence Macmillan, Wayne State University, USA; Dr Ronald Milne, Natural Environment Research Council; Dr Gian-Luca Oppo, Strathclyde University; Professor Martin John Powell, Philips Research Laboratories; Mr Roger Wynne Preston, National Power; Dr Michael Noel "Ben" Rudden, Northumbria University; Mr John Simon, W.S. Atkins plc; Dr John Stephenson, Alberta University, Canada; Dr Anthony David Surridge, Department of Minerals and Energy, South Africa; Dr Graham Thompson, Queen Mary and Westfield College; Dr Rowland Wynne, Welsh Funding Councils.

Service dinner

Women's Transport Service (FANY) Corp Commander Anna Whitehead presided at the regional dinner of the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry (FANY) held yesterday at Longmoor Camp, Hampshire, to open the celebrations for the FANY's 90th year.

Armourers' and Brasiers' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Armourers' and Brasiers' Company for the ensuing year: Master, Mr Peter J. Fenlon; Upper Warden, Mr John H. Hale; Roper Warden, Mr Gerald A. Garnett.

Latest wills

Walter Whendy, of Churt, Surrey, left estate valued at £9,453,779 net.
Leonard Richard Stevens, of Egham, Surrey, left estate valued at £1,696,129 net.
Edith Sophia Compton, of London W13, left estate valued at £2,057,957 net.
Arthur James Daniels, of Birkfield, Bracknell, Berkshire, left estate valued at £2,313,838 net.
Harriet Elizabeth Willis Gault, of Orby, West Yorkshire, left estate valued at £2,983,623 net.
She left £200,000 in the RNLi towards a lifeboat on the west coast of Scotland.
Peter Banbury Walsh, of London SW3, left estate valued at £1,488,239 net.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.A.S. Jackson and Miss L.C. Mayhew. The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr John S. Jackson, and of the late Duff Jackson, of Santiago, Chile, and Leticia, daughter of Mr Anthony Mayhew, of Whitesmith, Sussex, and Lady Roper, of Bodel, Yorkshire.

Mr A.L. Macmillan and Miss C.S. Mullens. The engagement is announced between Andrew, eldest son of Mr Kenneth Macmillan, of Dulwich, London, and Miss Caroline Winterlood, of Isleworth, Middlesex, and Catherine, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Mullens, of Kings Walden, Hertfordshire.

Mr O. Maland and Miss J.C. Reid. The engagement is announced between Oliver, eldest son of Mr and Mrs David Maland, of Westmeston, East Sussex, and Jacqueline, only daughter of Mr Joseph Reid, of Billerica, Essex, and Mrs Christine Hancock, of Woolley Hill, Somerset.

Mr M.W. Power and Miss J.C. Gallagher. The engagement is announced between Michael, elder son of Mr and Mrs Michael Power, of Sandford, Dublin, Ireland, and Laura, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Joe Gallagher, of Balbridge, Dublin and Bentley Heath, West Midlands.

Mr N.C. Studholme-Wilson and Miss P.H. Trickey. The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Mr and Mrs Simon Studholme-Wilson, of Oatlands, Gloucestershire, and Polly, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Nicholas Trickey, of Sunninghill, Berkshire.

Colonel D.E. Travers and Mrs L. Butterfield. The engagement is announced between Colonel David Travers, late The Royal Green Jackets, and Mrs Linda Butterfield, of Haslemere, Surrey.

Mr J.H. White and Miss D.J.K. McAulay. The engagement is announced between Jason, son of Mr and Mrs Ian White, of Tyford, Surrey, and Deborah Jane Kadoorie, daughter of Mr Ronald and the Hon Mrs McAulay, of Hong Kong.

Marriage

Mr T.K. Ball and Miss J.J. Milward. The marriage took place on Saturday, April 26, 1997, at Lansdowne Church, Exeter. The bride, daughter of Mr and Mrs C.K. Ball, and of Mrs S.M. Champneys, to Miss Johanna Milward, daughter of Mr and Mrs Roger Milward, Canon, Exeter Cathedral.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Henrietta and Georgina Hine, Charlotte Hore, Lydia Newton, Henry Langton and Maximilian Napier. Dr Peter Martin was best man. The reception was held at the Jockey Club, Newmarket and the honeymoon in Italy.

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Live as those who are free; not however at the expense of freedom provided a cloak for wrongdoing, but as slaves to God's service. 1 Peter 2:16

BIRTHS

CAREY - On 26th April 1997 at Salisbury Hospital, Salisbury, Wiltshire, to the wife of Mr and Mrs David Carey, a son, David James Carey, 7lb 10oz, 50cm, Apgar 9/10, 10/10, born at 11.15am.

CHARLTON - On May 1st, 1997, at the home of the parents, to a daughter, Lavinia Sophia, 7lb 10oz, 50cm, Apgar 9/10, 10/10, born at 11.15am.

CLIMBERT - On May 1st 1997, at the home of the parents, to a son, Boris William, a brother for Cameron.

LUDFORD - On 25th April 1997, to Susan and Paul, a son, Joseph Robert.

MASON - On April 30th, 1997, to Andrew and Louise, a son, Charles Alexander.

THOMAS - On Saturday 3rd May 1997, at The Princess Alexandra Hospital, to a son, William James Thomas, 7lb 10oz, 50cm, Apgar 9/10, 10/10, born at 11.15am.

SILVER ANNIVERSARIES

BRIDGE - On our Silver Wedding Anniversary my strength, my life, my love forever, Rosemary.

DEATHS

ANNOUNCEMENT - Peter MA (Mrs) F.P.M.J. F.C.I.S. on April 29th, 1997, following a long illness, a much loved husband, father, grandfather, uncle and great-uncle, died at his home, 11, St John's Church, Danbury, Essex at 12 noon.

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COCHRANE - Grace Eliza, 84th birthday on 30th April 1997 aged 98. Service at St Mary's Church, 1997 at 2.30 pm. Burial at 11.30 am. Burial at 11.30 am.

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DEATHS

COTTELL - Betty (Mrs) devoted wife of John (Leslie) COTTELL, died on 1st May 1997, aged 78 years, at her home, 11, St John's Church, Danbury, Essex at 12 noon.

DUNBAR - On May 1st, 1997, at the home of the parents, to a son, Boris William, a brother for Cameron.

LUDFORD - On 25th April 1997, to Susan and Paul, a son, Joseph Robert.

MASON - On April 30th, 1997, to Andrew and Louise, a son, Charles Alexander.

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TICKETS FOR SALE

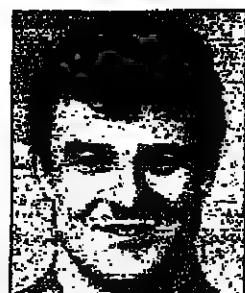
ALL AVAIL. Phoenix, Belfast on All day Games, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 2680, 2681, 2682, 2683, 2684, 2685, 2686, 2687, 2688, 2689, 2690, 2691, 2692, 2693, 2694, 2695, 2696, 2697, 2698, 2699, 2700, 2701, 2702, 2703, 2704, 2705, 2706, 2707, 2708, 2709, 2710, 2711, 2712, 2713, 2714, 2715, 2716, 2717, 2718, 27

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THE TIMES TUESDAY MAY 6 1997

United draw closer to title in match which may cost Ravanelli his place at Wembley

Gain and pain for Middlesbrough

MANCHESTER UTD	MIDDLESBROUGH
Keane (34) G. Neville (42)	Juninho (15) Emerson (37)
Solskjaer (87)	Hignett (40)

By OLIVER HOLY
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE match that had been billed as High Noon produced the shootout that everyone had been hoping for at Old Trafford yesterday afternoon but without the denouement. Manchester United and Middlesbrough, chasing goals at opposite ends of the FA Cup Final, lacked little for ammunition but forgot that the best westerns never end in draws.

In a splendid match played in teeming rain, thick with amateurish defending and the splashes of bodies sliding through deep puddles, United fought their way back from a two-goal deficit for the second time in three days to edge a point closer to the championship.

What once seemed as

midfield, Peste was solid in defence and Juninho glided around as though he really could walk on water.

Even when Ravanelli was taken away on a stretcher with a suspected torn hamstring that could keep him out of the FA Cup Final, United scored their first equaliser a minute later. Middlesbrough refused to give up and took the rest of the first half by storm.

In the end, Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, who was given a standing ovation by the supporters who once worshipped him in Manchester, even seemed disappointed with the point that has thrown the club's search for safety back into their own hands. They are still rooted in the bottom three, but wins away to Blackburn Rovers on Thursday and Leeds United on Sunday would probably pull them clear.

"I am getting used to games like these," said Robson, whose side beat Aston Villa 3-2 with a last minute goal on Saturday, said. "I thought we did well in the first half but, after we scored our second goal, we slackened off. It is a vital point for us because it puts us back in touch with the rest. If we get another win, we will be on level terms with other teams and things will be looking a lot better."

"Ravanelli is going to be very doubtful for the final now. This is why we complain about having to play so many games in such a short space of time; because players are bound to get muscle injuries. It is very disappointing, but we will look at it more closely in the morning."

Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, was giving out mixed messages, too, full of praise for his team's commitment and tenacity and for the quicksilver skills of Juninho, but livid about the rash of mistakes made by his defenders.

"I think that was the worst we have defended in the past six years," Ferguson said. "We have not done well at the back in the games against Derby and Leicester recently. In fact, we have lost 23 goals against the bottom seven teams in the Premiership this season. That disappoints me but I thought Juninho was the best player on the pitch today. I thought he was absolutely magnificent."

Juninho was indeed brilliant from start to finish, though it was going to be a gallop towards their fourth title in five years has slowed to a crawl now, but they could still win the prize tonight without kicking a ball if Newcastle United draw or lose away to West Ham United and Liverpool are beaten away to Wimbledon.

Somehow, though, United and their quest seemed to be at the periphery of the drama yesterday, a supporting act to Middlesbrough's latest desperate attempt to drag themselves free of the threat of relegation that has blighted their season of cup successes. Their collection of expensive, exotic foreigners hurried themselves around the swamped surface as though they had been playing on sodden English pitches all their lives. Emerson was inspirational in the centre of



Ravanelli, the Middlesbrough forward, is carried off after suffering the hamstring injury that could keep him out of the FA Cup Final. Photograph: Peter Wilcock

tireless in his running, ceaseless in his invention, so hungry for the ball that he was almost tackling his own players to get hold of it, so slippery and elusive that United were powerless to thwart him.

The genius of the diminutive Brazilian ran through Middlesbrough's first goal like a rich seam. He started the move in the fourteenth minute by playing the ball in to Ravanelli and continued it with a run and another pass to Hignett. When Hignett drew two United defenders and then slipped the ball back to him, Juninho slid it unerringly across Schmeichel into the corner of the net.

Stung, United tried to reas-

The FA Cup Final Premiership match between West Ham United and Newcastle United at Upton Park tonight will be shown live on Sky Sports 1 from 7.30.

sert their supremacy and Beckham was denied a goal when his volley cannoned off Blackmore. Soon after that, though, Ravanelli collapsed on the touchline and a frenetic period of four goals in eight minutes ensued.

United equalised in the 34th minute when Cole slipped as he tried to shoot and the ball ran to Keane, who hit a low drive past Roberts. Three min-

utes later, Middlesbrough went back into the lead when Freestone, Ravanelli's replacement, touched on a pass from Juninho and Emerson lifted it over Schmeichel into the roof of the net.

Almost before he had finished dancing his samba in the rain, Mustoe took advantage of a rash tackle from Irwin and broke down the right wing. His cross curled away from Schmeichel and was headed in by Hignett at point-blank range.

Four minutes before half-time, though, Gary Neville, who had never before scored for United, ran on to a ball from Cantona and struck a fierce cross-shot beyond Rob-

erts. Midway through the second half, Neville turned provider, sending in a cross that Solskjaer glanced into the corner for the equaliser.

United had a late appeal for Irwin appeared to be balked by Stamp, but, after the season that Middlesbrough have had, defeat would have been as cruel as Gary Cooper being shot by the last of the bad guys.

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-3-1-2) P Schmeichel — G. Neville, D. May, G. Pallister, D. Irwin — D. Beckham, R. Johnson (sub), P. Scholes, T. Smith, R. Keane — C. Cantona — D. G. Solskjaer, A. Cole. MIDDLESBROUGH (4-4-1-1-1) B. Roberts — C. Fleming, N. Pearson, G. Feste, J. Blackmore — C. Hignett (sub), S. Vickers, T. Emerson (sub), V. Underhill, R. Mustoe, P. Stamp — Juninho — F. Ravanelli (sub), C. Freestone, S. Roberts. D. Gallagher.

Doherty keeps Hendry revival in check

By PHIL YATES

KEN DOHERTY stood on the threshold of shattering Stephen Hendry's recent monopoly of the Embassy world snooker championship when he established a 15-9 lead over the title-holder entering the concluding session of the final at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, yesterday.

Doherty required only three of the remaining 11 frames to become the first player from the Republic of Ireland to lift the trophy and only the second non-British winner, after Cliff Thorburn, of Canada, in the 70-year history of the game's premier event.

Yet the thought lingered that Hendry would re-emerge with all guns blazing in a last-ditch attempt to protect his 29 match unbeaten sequence at the Crucible, extending back to the quarter-finals in 1991, when he lost 13-11 to Steve James.

The huge financial incentive also ensured that Doherty would be forced to combat enormous pressure as well as a resilient opponent, the first

prize — £210,000 — dwarfing the £50,000 he won at the 1994 Regal Scottish Masters and the Dr Martens European League last year on his biggest pay-days to date.

Victory would also bestow upon the amiable Dubliner the unique distinction of being the only player to capture both the world amateur title and its professional counterpart.

Doherty has long been a respected member of snooker's highly-ranked supporting cast but, when the tournament began 17 days ago, his installation as a 25-1 outsider appeared a reasonable assessment by the bookmakers.

Trailing 11-5 overnight, it was clear that Hendry required a flying start to the penultimate session. That was precisely what he got, in the form of a 53 break to win the opening frame of the afternoon with few alarms.

Hendry's facial expression and general demeanour suggested the intensity, inexplicably absent from his game on Sunday, was back in place. Doherty fully realised the

importance of exhibiting no sign of weakness on which Hendry could thrive. He was mightily relieved to construct a 70 clearance in the next to regain his six-frame cushion at 15-7.

A run of 92 from Hendry in the nineteenth, during which he cued smoothly and authoritatively, once again suggested that the champion was in the

mood to supplement the lengthy list of revivals that have earned him a deserved reputation as the game's foremost escapologist. In the climax to the 1992 championship, Hendry engaged overdrive when recovering from a 1-8 deficit to defeat Jimmy White 18-14 with a memorable burst of brilliance. Twelve months earlier, he

edged Mike Hallett 9-8 for the Benson and Hedges Masters after being 7-0 and 8-2 in arrears.

With that knowledge weighing on his mind, Doherty displayed considerable mettle in pulling away from 12-7 to 15-7, at which point a severely truncated evening session appeared the most likely scenario.

Contributions of 35, 46, 52 and 33 assisted Doherty in drawing 14-7 ahead before a clearance from the last red in the 22nd frame, which culminated in an exceptional pot on a tricky pink with the cue-ball tucked under the side cushion, saw him forge on.

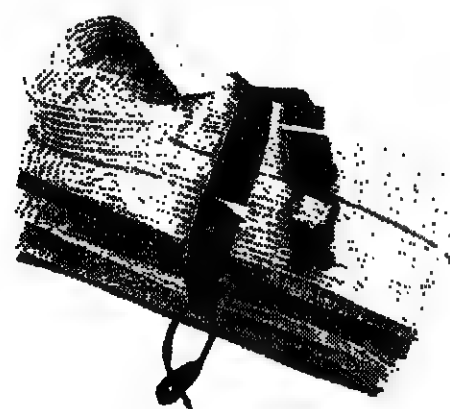
Tenacity has long been a trait associated with Hendry and it was this refusal to accept his fate that allowed the Scot to retain a degree of hope by accounting emphatically for the closing two frames of the afternoon.

Hendry needed only one scoring visit in the 23rd. He constructed a 137 total clearance, his fourth century break of the match, his eighth of the championship, 46th of the



Hendry feels the weight of the world title yesterday

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CRICKET: RECORD PARTNERSHIP PUTS BENSON AND HEDGES CUP MATCH BEYOND GLOUCESTERSHIRE'S GRASP

Taylor's second century lifts Sussex spirits

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

HOVE (Sussex won toss): Sussex (2pts) beat Gloucestershire by 34 runs

SUSSEX will not dominate many teams this summer, but they intend to enjoy it when it happens. There was a noisy, boyish exuberance about them at Hove last evening as Gloucestershire, who had begun the day with a superior swagger under clear blue skies, were vanquished in the gathering gloom.

Neil Taylor, whose county career looked over when Kent released him last autumn, made the second century of his reincarnation and shared a record of 208 with Mark Newell, an all-wicket record for Sussex in the Benson and Hedges Cup and the abiding memory of a decent match. The total of 273 was too many for

Gloucestershire, despite some vintage improvisation from Jack Russell, and credit is due to Nicky Phillips and Amer Khan, the inexperienced spin bowlers, who each took three wickets and bowled an intelligent length.

For Sussex, the immediate benefits of this success are dubious. It probably means that neither of these teams will qualify for the quarter-finals, which will leave Gloucestershire free to stage the opening first-class fixture of the Australian tour, an honour that otherwise would have passed to Sussex.

Such side-issues did not enter the equation last night. Every Sussex player wore a broad grin and, in the committee room, the gang of three who took over this club showed uninhibited relief. Victory might be materially insignificant, but its worth to morale is immeasurable for a club stripped of its best players and

starved of respect, any win tastes sweet.

Off the field, Sussex are forging ahead. Today, Robin Marlar and Tony Pigott, their chairman and chief executive, will outline their plans to Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth, the chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board. These include a floodlit Axa Life League match against Surrey in August.

What the game yesterday emphasised is the character of the side. Whether generated by adversity, or outside scorn, the players express a spirit that will not easily be doused.

Pigott is a lifelong supporter of Leicester City and he draws an analogy between the two teams. Leicester, although without star players, have thrived through team spirit, hard work and commitment. "I reckon Sussex can do something similar and that is the message I keep giving the players," Pigott said.

They responded appropriately here, especially after losing both openers cheaply. After 19 overs, the Sussex score had crept to 40 for two and Taylor, deprived of the strike for long periods, had managed just nine singles.

There was not much of a crowd, and those who had turned up wore the resigned expressions of people who have paid to watch a film and realised, too late, that they have seen it several times already. There was, though, a twist to the familiar Hove script and it was initiated by the captain of Newell.

In the side only through the illness of his elder brother, Newell edged his first ball between wicketkeeper and slip for four, but played very few false strokes thereafter. His driving was a delight and the impetus that he gave to the innings had a pronounced effect on his hitherto sleeping partner.

Taylor always has been a master of pacing an innings, imperceptibly moving through the gears. A sweep six took him to 50, the last 44 from 30 balls, and he streaked away from Newell to finish with 116 at a run a ball. Alleyne and the two Gloucestershire slow bowlers were savaged as 96 came from the last ten overs.

Sussex now made the perfect start in the field as Monte Lynch was run out without facing a ball. Phillips throwing down the stumps from mid-on, Tony Wright played fluently until he and Young were both well caught by Peter Moores, standing up to Mark Robinson. When the fretting Conliffe mishit Amer Khan to mid-on, the innings was derailed.

Russell, as ever, refused to submit, sweeping and swinging with calculated lack of convention, but Sussex held their nerve and still have a chance of progressing, if they can win their final group match at the Oval.

Fairbrother provides Lancashire with means of escape

By RICHARD HOBSON

WALSALL (Lancashire won toss): Minor Counties, with ten wickets in hand, need a further 210 runs from 40 overs to beat Lancashire

FOR a period yesterday, the Minor Counties stood on the threshold of one of the most surprising results in the 25 years of the Benson and Hedges Cup. They restricted Lancashire, the winners of the trophy for the past two seasons and the giants of the one-day game for much longer, to 41 for five and held every chance of escaping the extraordinary feats of Ireland and the British Universities in conquering first-class opponents over the past fortnight.

Only the wiles of Neil Fairbrother and the support of the lower middle-order rescued Lancashire from humiliation. While it is plausible that the Minor Counties can knock off the 210 that they require today, the likelihood is that the Lancashire, suitably chastened, will claim the two points that they need to remain in contention for a quarter-final place.

Five of the Minor Counties side have been on the playing staff at Old Trafford and all seven wickets fell to men who had at one time proudly sported the red rose. Lancashire could not claim to have been taken by surprise. In fact, they were undone by the folly of their approach on a slow pitch that rewarded the patient but punished the rash. Four of the first five victims fell to catches after playing with needless aggression, against the new-ball pair of Neil Radford and Marcus Sharp. The latter bowled his ten overs in a single spell costing just 17 runs.

Lancashire felt the need to improve their run-rate, having lost no wicket in the first 10 overs. They did not appreciate until the alk of time, however, that the priority was to earn victory whatever the manner. Gallian drove to guile before Crawley fell for his third duck in four innings in the competition when Fielding held a chance one-handed at mid-off.

Michael Atherton, resting his groin injury as a precaution, would surely not have perished in such a fashion. Even Atherton, though, might have struggled to defend the delivery from Sharp that pitched on middle and beat the defence of McKewen before clipping the off ball. Still Lancashire attacked. After a short break, Ian Austin whipped the first two balls through mid-wicket but so-called behind, and Lloyd succumbed to a marvellous low catch at cover by Gaywood.

That the Minor Counties had surpassed all expectations was evident from their glee. With just six previous victories in this competition, such excitement was justifiable. Yet with Fairbrother demonstrating necessary vigilance, the initiative swung.

He put on 57 with Wasim Akram and then 101 in 19 overs with Hogg, who moved from 25 to 50 within two overs of being dropped by Dalton. Fairbrother, too, enjoyed a life-on 40 and, by the time that Ecclestone stood for his earlier mistake, Fairbrother had scored 62 from 129 balls. There is more to playing positive cricket than crash bang and wallop.

Prichard makes the running in rout of Somerset

By PAT GIBSON

CHELMSFORD (Somerset won toss): Essex (2pts) beat Somerset by eight wickets

PAUL PRICHARD has decided to lead Essex from the front this season and yesterday he could not have done it better. He opened the batting, made 114, his highest score in 54 Benson and Hedges Cup matches, and as good as guaranteed his side a home game in the quarter-finals.

For Somerset, it must have smacked of déjà vu. A year ago, in the same competition, they set Essex to score 250 to win and lost by eight wickets with 8½ overs to spare. Now they challenged Essex to make 270 and they needed only seven more balls to win by a similar margin.

Then it was Stuart Law, whose omission from the Australia tour party makes Englishmen shudder at the strength of their batting, who took Essex to victory with an unbeaten century. Now Law was outscored by Prichard, which tells you how well he played.

Between them, they put on 204 in only 30 overs to score a significant victory for what one will call proper batting over "pinch-hitting", the modern way of approaching the 50-over game favoured by Dermot Reeve, Somerset's innovative new coach.

"It is not a case of pinch-hitting," Prichard said, explaining the Essex philosophy.

"We go out there telling each other to be in position but to play our own games. Sometimes they bowl the ball where you can hit it, sometimes they don't. Today they did."

The most obliging were the two bowlers who Somerset were relying on to defend their total of 269 for eight. Caddick conceded 60 runs in his ten overs and Mushtaq Ahmed went for 31 in three before retiring with what was said to be a nagging knee injury caused by lifting his cricket case.

It seemed a trivial complaint compared with what Prichard has been through in recent years. He has suffered badly from broken fingers and during the winter underwent a double fusion of the spine involving the insertion of two screws in his lower back to cure a problem which has been troubling him for several seasons.

He feels all the better for it and plans to open the batting in all competitions this season. "Somebody has got to carry on from Graham Gooch when he retires," he said, "and hopefully it will be me. I am not saying that I will fill his boots but I will try."

Prichard certainly filled his own boots yesterday. He reached his 50 out of 88 and was already past 100 by the time Law went to pull Caddick and skied a gentle catch to mid-on.

Law hit a six, effortlessly

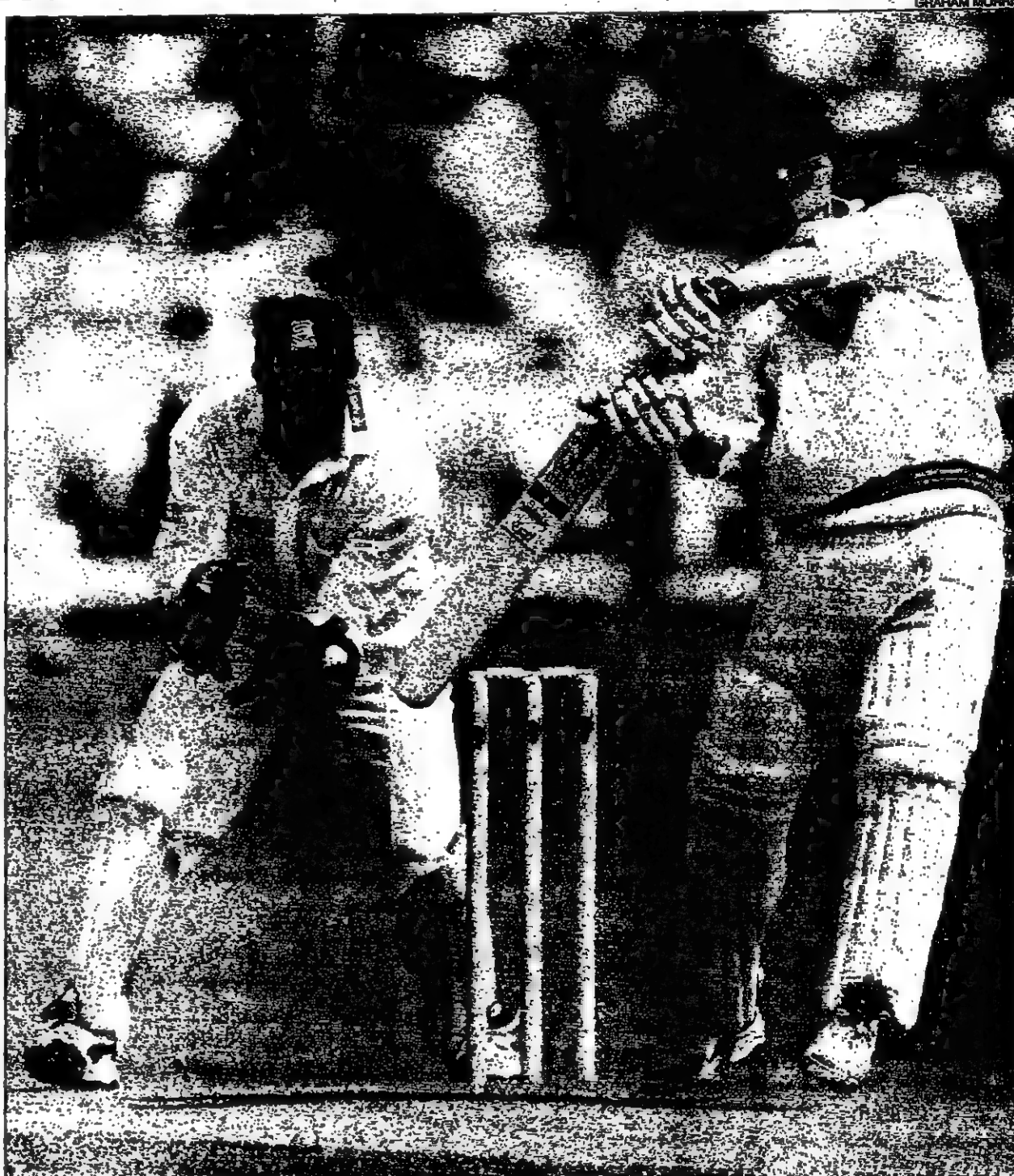
helped over the fine-leg boundary off Kerr, and 11 fours in his 88 off 89 balls, but for once he was overshadowed by the compact, pugacious Prichard, who had 17 fours in his 114 off 101 balls.

He was eventually caught behind driving at Kerr but by then the job was virtually done and there was no need for Caddick to look so aggrieved, when Rose, peering into the sun, put down a skyer at long leg when Hussain had made seven.

There were no further alarms as Hussain and Gooch eased Essex to their fifth win in as many one-day games this season, confirming the impression that they have the balance to be a major threat in all competitions.

The Somerset total had been built around a solid 91 in 40 overs by Burns, who was Warwickshire's reserve wicketkeeper last year but is now opening the batting for Somerset and bowling his medium pace as economically as anybody.

His only support among the pinch-hitters came from Mushtaq, who did not seem to have too much wrong with his knee when he was slopping 31 off 27 balls and it was not until the more orthodox Harden, batting as low as No 7, went in to make 64 off 67 balls that Somerset got anywhere near the kind of total they needed on such a good pitch. Even then, it was not enough.



Lathwell forces the ball into the off side during his innings of 17 for Somerset at Chelmsford yesterday

Loye makes timely amends for painful fumble

By JOHN THICKNESSE

NORTHAMPTON (Northamptonshire won toss): Northamptonshire, with five wickets in hand, need another 35 runs to beat Scotland with 23.5 overs remaining

IT MAY seem from the scorecard that Northamptonshire had a relatively easy ride in climbing to within 35 runs of beating Scotland with five wickets standing in their group B match at Northampton. The reality was different. Not only did they bowl badly and catch appallingly, dropping five chances, but, need-

ing 161 to win, they lost five wickets for 94 through impulsive batting and might have been in serious difficulties but for Malachi Loye, who played the innings of the day.

There was irony in that. For though David Capel, at first slip, and Tim Walton, in the covers, fluffed chances they would expect to take at least four times out of five, far and away the easiest was missed by Loye himself.

Fielding on the edge of the circle at mid-off, he made such a hash of a skyer from Bruce Patterson that he not only deprived John Embury of a wicket but cost his side two

runs — one while the ball was in the air and a second when it rebounded off his cheekbone into open space.

Loye, who was reported to be feeling off colour anyway, was knocked out and did not field again, and batted — at No 6 — only because his presence was demanded by the precarious position of his team.

When rain stopped play, flooding an area close to the tarpaulin covers, Loye was 32 not out, including three fours and a superb six, a flat pull to mid-wicket.

If the ground fails to dry today — and the forecast is

pessimistic — Northamptonshire will win through on a faster scoring-rate.

Embury was unexpectedly forgiving about Loye's drop considering it meant he went wicketless through a spell of subtlety and wonderful control. Operating into a strong breeze coming from long-leg, he scarcely bowled an off break, delivering instead a series of flat arm-balls that drifted leg-to-off after pitching on the batsmen's legs. Such was his accuracy that in ten overs he conceded only 14 runs — one four, one two and eight singles.

As Northamptonshire's chief coach, however, he was fiercely critical of his fellow bowlers — surprisingly so, I thought, considering that though the pitch was grassy, it was dry and lacked even a tinge of green. "A county side should have bowled a side like Scotland out for less than a hundred on that wicket," Embury said. "Seamers have to get the ball in the right area, six balls out of six. I'm not happy with it and I shall tell them so."

Jim Love, 42, the former Yorkshire player, now Scotland's director of coaching, was predictably nettled by that comment. "I feel John's re-

mains a bit unfair on today's evidence, though it might have applied to some of our past performances," he said. "There is still a big gap, but you get the feeling on today's evidence that we can compete."

The home seamers, true, failed to compensate for the absence of Mohammed Akram, their Pakistan fast bowler. But David Follett, 28, who left Middlesex for Northamptonshire during the winter, produced balls of quality to have David Lockhart caught at slip, and later York Graham Horribat, Scotland's top scorer.

Tendulkar suggests recipe for success

SACHIN TENDULKAR, the India captain, believes his beleaguered team, recovering from a humiliating tour of the West Indies, lacks an all-rounder, a physical trainer, psychologist — and a cook. "It is not a pretty sight to see players with vegetarian food habits struggling on tours," Tendulkar said yesterday after losing both the Test and one-day series in the West Indies. "French fries and potatoes are hardly the diet for a sportsman playing at the highest level of the game. I wonder if a cook on tours is the answer."

Tendulkar, who will lead India in the four-nation Independence Cup, in which they will play Pakistan, Sri Lanka and New Zealand, from Friday, split out why his team has won just one Test abroad since 1987, while enjoying a 16-2 home record in the same period.

"What the team urgently needs is a good all-rounder, a physical trainer and a psychologist or psychoanalyst," he said. "You look at international teams and all of them have some good all-rounders. Unfortunately we are struggling in this area and it hampers the team's balance."

"Ideally I would like to go in with five bowlers, five batsmen and a wicketkeeper, but we are forced to play only four specialist bowlers because we do not have an all-rounder."

"I feel players need to improve upon their fitness. The team needs a physical trainer. Also, the boys could do with the assistance of a psychologist. We need a person in this area who knows the game well, one who understands the requirements of an international cricketer."

Llong spares Kent's blushes

By JACK BAILEY

CANTERBURY (Kent won toss): Kent (2pts) beat British Universities by four wickets

KENT are probably as well equipped as any team in the country for the limited-over game. Batting and bowling in depth and strong fielding make them formidable opposition. However, they were taken all the way yesterday by British Universities, for whom victory appeared to be a real possibility until Nigel Llong and Mark Ealham put on 172 from 21 overs for the sixth wicket, a stand which all but saw Kent home.

Llong was out to a brilliant diving catch at mid-off, just before the end. By then, he had done enough to clinch victory for Kent and assure them of a place in the Benson and Hedges quarter-finals, and also to win his first Gold Award. His innings of 75 from 64 balls contained 12 fours. It was just the sort of counter-attacking cricket Kent needed. They had been tied down by Jones, the Bristol rugby full back, who illustrated

what fitness, determination and bowling line and length can do. They also had looked likely to succumb to the pace of Boswell and the spin of Rashid before Llong brought an end to the aspirations of a good, if inexperienced, Universities team.

The students' innings owed much to Mark Chilton as well as to Tim Hodgson and Anurag Singh, already well known at Edgbaston. Chilton was firing on all cylinders when he fell to a marvellous diving catch by Matthew Fleming at short extra-cover. Hodgson's 60 came from 69 balls: Singh nursed the

tailenders, played with good sense and, with a half-century from 69 balls, ensured that Kent would have to score 224 to win.

That presented no great problem, on the face of it, but struggle Kent did. Sharp and aggressive bowling by Boswell and a spell of impeccable line and length from Jones were chiefly responsible for Kent being reduced to 99 for five in the 24th over. Had it not been for Fleming's 63 from 44 balls out of 76 — and the serviceable edges which brought him roughly half his 11 fours — the damage could have been terminal.

First, a call from Fleming led to Walker, his semi-rare opening partner, being run out before scoring. Then Boswell's speed accounted for Ward and Fleming. Half Kent fell foul of a good ball from Rashid.

Rashid turned the ball more than anybody, but the left-handed Llong took bold advantage of the left-armed's stock ball coming into him and revelled in solid support from Ealham.

□ Misa Patel, England's spinner for two Tests less than a year ago, may not play again this season because of injury. Kent coach John Wright said: "It's a blow for us because we were looking forward to having Misa linking up with Paul Strang this season." Patel, 26, played in the first two Tests against India last year.

Smith fires opening salvo

By IVO TENNANT

EDGBASTON (Warwickshire won toss): Yorkshire, with ten wickets in hand, need 220 runs to beat Warwickshire

THERE is no stronger group in the Benson and Hedges Cup this year than the one in which Warwickshire and Yorkshire have been cast. By the end of a day's play spoilt by numerous interruptions for rain, and light as opaque as it can be for the time of year, neither county was any nearer resolving qualification for the quarter-finals.

Yorkshire, who, like Warwickshire, have won two of their three matches in group A, resume today needing 220 off a further 45 overs, with all their wickets intact. If that would appear to indicate a target well within their compass, it should be mentioned that the weather forecast is again poor, the ball has been darting around and no batsman, save perhaps for Neil Smith, has managed to surmount the conditions. This has the makings of a fascinating contest, rain permitting.

In one sense, it was an intriguing contest yesterday. Warwickshire had apparently included Michael Edmond in their side, but, come mid-afternoon, it was discovered that Gladstone Small was playing instead. He was not required to bat, so there was no possible repetition of play being held up, as happened at Canterbury in Kent's opening championship match, against Derbyshire.

Andy Moles, the Warwickshire captain, said that he had given Small's name to David Byas, his opposite number, who accepted the situation. The public were merely bemused.

By then, Warwickshire had used up their allotted 50 overs. Several batsmen seemed likely to build an innings and failed to do so. Ostler and Hemp in particular.

Ultimately, only a partnership of 39 off the last six overs between Giles — a useful player to have coming in at No 9 — and Donald brought about a respectable total. Sixteen came off the final over,

bowled by Hartley. He was the most expensive element of an attack that was, for the most part, frugal.

Smith, unlike some batsmen — Vasebert Drakes, of Sussex, comes to mind — knows how to make the most of the opening overs, of as many as one-day cricket. The shot that brought about his dismissal yesterday was an ugly one, but that will not particularly concern him in this form of the game. His innings of 57 came off 61 balls and included nine fours.

Moles, returning to the side, had gone cheaply, playing on to Gough. Brown, clipped White's first ball to short mid-wicket. Hemp looked the part, but then he often did when he was with Glamorgan. He was bowled hitting across the line in Vaughan's first over.

Neither Ostler nor Penney properly built an innings, which meant that the runs at the end were all the more valuable. There was time for only five overs of Yorkshire's reply before the gloaming descended.

CRICKET

Holloake makes the difference for Surrey

BY SIMON WILDE

SOUTHAMPTON (Surrey won toss; Surrey (2pts) beat Hampshire by 165 runs)

ADAM HOLLOAKE has deservedly gained a reputation as one of the best and most inventive one-day cricketers in the country, and he amply demonstrated why at Northlands Road yesterday.

The Surrey captain's innings of 80, surprisingly easily his highest in the Benson and Hedges Cup, was also comfortably the highest of a match played on a pitch that frustrated strokeplay and was also together inadequate for a limited-overs game.

It was a performance that separated the teams, Hampshire, quite unable to match their opponents' credible total of 228 for nine, capitulating miserably to be all out for 63 and scraping past their lowest total in the competition — 50 at Headingley in 1991 — to ironic cheers from their supporters.

Holloake came to the wicket with Surrey in disarray at 22 for four, a dreadful start which Hampshire, who have begun the season in miserable fashion, comfortably eclipsed. They lost their fourth wicket — the key one of Smith — with the total on 19.

The difference was that Surrey recovered and Hollioake was the man responsible, ably helped in a stand of 138 in 28 overs by Shahid, who made 52 before being run out going for a non-existent second run to third man. It was a rare error during a partnership in which circumspection and enterprise were expertly mixed.

They were the only batsmen to score more than 22 in a game dominated by bowlers: Simon Renshaw, 23, took six for 25, the best figures returned for Hampshire in the

competition, suggesting that the county may at last have found a new-ball bowler capable of providing the cutting edge they crave. For Surrey, Bicknell took three for 20 and Benjamin four for 19.

Well as they all bowled and superbly as both teams fielded — the pick of several excellent catches was the high, one-handed effort of Ben Hollioake to remove Mascarenhas — several frontline batsmen will be ashamed of their parting strokes.

Brown was caught at extra cover off a leading edge in the first over of the day and Renshaw, suitably encouraged, maintained a good line for the rest of his spell. The younger Hollioake also found the ball was not quite there for his shot and sliced a drive into the hands of third man and, when Stewart and Thorpe also played inappropriate shots to Maru and Renshaw respectively, Surrey were contemplating an unexpected defeat.

Adam Hollioake enjoyed an early escape when another leading edge off Renshaw fell short of mid-on, but he soon adjusted to conditions by going down the wicket to the seamers and staying his ground to late-cut Udale's off spin. He fell to a running catch by Stephenson, after trying to hit Renshaw over the top.

This was a timely performance to put before David Lloyd, the England coach, and was in stark contrast to that of Smith, who tamely pulled the ball into the hands of mid-wicket. Nor did Hayden, Hampshire's Australian opener, cover himself in glory, top-edging a pull which the diving Knott held on to splendidly.

Surrey are now well placed to qualify from Group C — unlike Hampshire, who have lost all six of their one-day matches this season.



Barnett swings Haynes to the boundary during the brief passage of play yesterday

Cork out of Texaco Trophy

BY MICHAEL HENDERSON

DERBY (Worcestershire won toss; Derbyshire have made 32 without loss against Worcestershire)

THE England selectors sent Mike Gatting on a mission to Derby yesterday, partly to put another friendly arm around Dominic Cork, but he returned to London neither wiser nor better informed. Heavy rain intervened in the eighth over of the Derbyshire innings, and more is forecast today, making a resumption unlikely.

Cork, who is still troubled by a groin injury, was not on the ground, and may be missing for another three

weeks, which rules him out of consideration for the three one-day internationals against Australia towards the end of the month.

Before Gatting went home, he spoke to Dean Jones, the Derbyshire captain, about Cork and other matters, to mark his latest card as a Test selector.

Jones remains optimistic about Cork's ability to put injury and loss of form behind him. "If he is fully fit, Cork will be a huge asset to England," Jones said. "The main problem is that he is injured, and it may be another three weeks before he is fit. He has a huge amount

of ability and, when he is on song, he can do wonderful things.

"He has gone through a few things in the past year, but the Derbyshire boys are trying to rally round him and give him their full support.

"I have no doubt that he will get himself right if he gets his body right.

"He is upset because he has not done well for England recently. He took seven wickets on his Test debut and is trying to emulate that deed in day out, which is very hard.

"Cricket is an ugly game at times and it has straightened him out a little bit."

GOLF

Langer adds strength to Ryder Cup cause

BY JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

FOR supporters of golf in Great Britain and Ireland and throughout the rest of Europe, there was much to cheer about in a Ryder and Walker Cups year after the results from the professional and amateur events over the weekend.

Who knows, perhaps a slight smile may be hovering over the normally sombre features of Severiano Ballesteros, the Europe captain in the Ryder Cup, at the way his team is shaping up after the conclusion of the Italian Open on Sunday.

Equally, the form of some of Britain and Ireland's leading amateurs in the Lytham and Berkshire Trophies means that the prospects for the Walker Cup in August look a little rosier than last week. A Ryder Cup team without the doggedness and experience of Bernhard Langer would be difficult to contemplate. On form, Langer is certainly among the ten best golfers in Europe. Even before his starting performance in giving Jose Maria Olazabal a three-stroke start and beating him in the Italian Open on Sunday, there had been signs of an improvement in Langer's fortunes.

Langer is now sixth in the Ryder Cup table and, with Olazabal moving into tenth position after only seven events since his comeback, it is beginning to look as though both men could qualify for Ballesteros's team in their own right.

This would ease the cap-

tain's worries as to who his two selections would be.

No less commanding than Langer's 64 in Brescia was Graham Rankin's emphatic nine-stroke victory in the Lytham Trophy — and no less impressive than that was Gary Wolstenholme's courageous par, par, birdie finish to snatch the Berkshire Trophy from under the nose of Henrik Stenson. Stenson, 21, from Sweden, is another of the highly promising youngsters produced by that country's golf programme.

Rankin, a bricklayer's

Tammie Green, of the United States, withstood the challenge of Annika Sorenstam, of Sweden, to win the Sprint Tiedholders Championship at Daytona Beach, Florida, on Sunday. Green finished with a 72 for a total of 274, 14 under par, to win by two shots.

labourer from Cumberland, has been notable for being a big hitter and almost as big an eater, competing in the 1995 Walker Cup, and being described by his friend, Barclay Howard, as "having the brains of a rocking horse".

A former Scotland international who played against Rankin earlier this year said that he was "very impressed" by Rankin. "He hits the ball miles."

Rankin's power will be useful at the long course of Quaker Ridge, the site of the

Walker Cup. At Lytham, Rankin seemed hellbent on putting behind him the events of last season, when the Scottish Golf Union disciplined him for speaking out of turn by dropping him from the team for the home internationals. His 67 in the third round, on a day when the standard scratch was 74, was almost as good as Langer's 64 at Brescia.

All in all, the Lytham Trophy was a hospitable place for the Scots, who had four players among the top five and five in the top seven. Howard finished third, Roger Beames, the low-hitting amateur from Wick who was beaten in the final of the Amateur last summer, was fourth, and Michael Brooks, the Scottish amateur champion, sixth.

Rankin, Howard, Brooks and Wolstenholme will be the nucleus of the team against the United States on August 9 and 10.

Howard continues to demonstrate an unrivalled appetite for golf. After an enforced break from the game a few years ago, he is now, in his mid-40s, playing the best golf of his life and, arguably, is the best amateur in Britain.

In fact, the only dissonant note in amateur events was the continued clash between the Lytham and Berkshire Trophies, which weakens the fields of both. Surely the English Golf Union can knock some sense into the two host clubs so that the clash can be avoided next year.

IN BRIEF

Manning survives course changes

FLOODED roads on the approach to Medlock Head, near Manchester, meant a last-minute re-routing and a shortened course in the final stage of the Tour of Manchester cycle race yesterday (Peter Bryan writes).

The stage, one large loop of 58 miles, was followed by an amended finishing circuit which reduced the day's distance to 70 miles and the overall mileage to 220.

Paul Manning, who took the race leader's yellow jersey on Saturday, held off all challengers to win overall from Kevin Dawson by 28 seconds; Simon Bray was third, at 35 seconds. Joe Bayfield, the runner-up last year, won the Manchester to Manchester stage, after shaking off Matthew Beckett ten miles from the end.

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RUGBY UNION

Clubs attempt to cut cup matches

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ATTEMPTS will be made in Dublin today to reduce the number of matches in the Heineken Cup next season. The meeting of European Rugby Cup Ltd (ERC) will also be invited to adopt a different approach in the distribution of money from the competition, based on the relative success of participating clubs.

The leading clubs in France are up in arms, in any case, at the dent that the Heineken Cup will make in their domestic competitions and they are sure to back English proposals that the series of play-off matches before the quarter-finals should be dispensed with. Those matches are necessary only because of the curious adoption of five qualifying pools of four clubs.

"We think clubs should get a certain amount of money for qualifying for Europe and that would increase depending on how far they go," Peter Wheeler, one of England's directors on the ERC board, said. Wheeler, the director of rugby at Leicester, also supports a merit-based competition which is the case with English, French, Welsh and Italian qualifications.

The second division are expected to announce the signing of Barry Williams, the Neath and Wales hooker, tomorrow. Williams, who will tour South Africa with the British Lions this summer, is understood to have been offered a five-year contract.

Those who run English rugby will also consider whether the winners of the Pilkington Cup next season should gain entry in 1998-99. In France, the winners of the

du Manoir Trophy already qualify.

The commercial value of a place in Europe is substantial, but there is still cash for collection before this season ends, notably at the Middlesex sevens at Twickenham on May 17, where the winners will take away £50,000. There would, too, be a certain irony if a club with no overheads — the Barbarians — were to take pride of place.

The Barbarians have not contested the Middlesex tournament since 1934, when they won it. They will line up with seven first-division club sides, the South American Barbarians and a VII drawn from the Irish national squad.

It is the start of a busy month for the Barbarians, who play in the Air France sevens in Paris at the end of the month and make a short tour to Italy in June, playing two invitation XV's. Nor would it be a surprise if they included a couple of Fijian players in their ranks — Fiji won the Henley sevens on Sunday, contest the London Floodlit tournament at Royston Park tomorrow and the Caidy sevens on Saturday.

Richmond, the winners of the second division, are expected to announce the signing of Barry Williams, the Neath and Wales hooker, tomorrow. Williams, who will tour South Africa with the British Lions this summer, is understood to have been offered a five-year contract.

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Ireland unscathed by Waqar's opening salvo

BY DIANE HODGSON

CARDIFF (Ireland won toss; Ireland have scored 74 for three from 21 overs against Glamorgan)

WAQAR YOUNIS will receive £200 for every wicket that he takes for Glamorgan after he has taken 100 wickets in all competitions this season. He will also receive bonuses for each and every trophy that Glamorgan win in this season and in 1998. His self-assessment form for the Inland

Revenue should make for interesting reading.

All this generosity stems from Glamorgan's insurance brokers, C.E. Heath, whose southwest managing director, Ian Brice, was at Cardiff yesterday morning to see Waqar being presented with his county cup before taking the field and then watched him deliver five overs that included a number of rather rapid deliveries.

Indeed, Waqar's appearance lifted this rather humble zonal Benson and Hedges

match into another dimension, and once he does start knocking over stumps, he can do much for cricket in Wales and even more for his bank account. "I have come to Wales to make an impact," was his declaration yesterday.

Ireland, whose decision to bat first seemed foolhardy, survived the two sessions of play before the rain with some equanimity. Eight of the 16 players who won glory in the ICC Trophy are now unavailable, having used up their leave from work.

Andy Patterson, 21, their promising opener, skilled to mid-off when driving at a ball that Watkin held back and Gordon Cooke was trapped by one of several balls from Owen Parikh that kept low.

The third wicket fell after the first 53-minute break for rain. Alan Lewis and Hansie Cronje had taken advantage of Waqar resting (5-0-10-0) to add 55 in 13 overs, before Lewis went, leg-before.

This was the prelude to a downpour of such proportions that the outfield was flooded.

McRae third

Motor rallying: Colin McRae, of Great Britain, lost 14 seconds on the second special stage after setting the pace in his Subaru Impreza in the opening timed section of the Tour of Corsica. He lay third after the first day of the tour, the sixth round in the world championship.

Gilles Parizzi and Francois Delcourt, both of France, held the first two places in Peugeot 306s. Tommi Makinen, the world champion from Finland, was sixth in a Mitsubishi Lancer, behind Carlos Sainz a former world champion from Spain, at the wheel of a Ford Escort.

Kingston's crown

Hockey: Kingston Grammar School stormed to a 5-3 victory after being 3-1 down to Millfield, from Somerset, in the under-15 final of the RAF Careers Youth Cup tournament at Milton Keynes yesterday. After having three players suspended for minor offences in the second half, Kingston recovered their composure when restored to full strength and scored four goals in the last 12 minutes. Andrew Webber finished with a hat-trick.

Wright upset

Squash: Jane Martin, from Northumbria, the England No 5 and world No 13, yesterday defeated Sue Wright, the British champion, from Kent, 9-7, 4-9, 9-6, 10-8 to win the Santa Barbara Spring Classic in the United States.

Smallwood's day

Shooting: Simon Smallwood, of Berkshire rifle club, put up an outstanding long-range shoot to move from fifteenth place overnight to win the Army target rifle open championship at Bisley yesterday.

Glamorgan v Somerset

CHELSEA (Somerset won toss; Essex

MOTOR RACING: PEUGEOT KEPT WAITING AGAIN FOR FIRST TOURING CAR CHAMPIONSHIP VICTORY

Harvey just fails to tread new ground

By MARK FOGARTY

PEUGEOT, the only manufacturer never to taste victory in the Auto Trader British Touring Car championship, came tantalisingly close to breaking its duck in the sixth round at Thruxton yesterday, when Tim Harvey failed by fractions of a second to beat Gabriele Tarquini, in a Honda.

Harvey, the 1992 champion, fought his way through from sixteenth position after an impromptu pit stop to switch from unroaded "slick" tyres to lightly-treaded intermediate rubber on his Peugeot 406. He gambled that the change would give him an advantage on the rain-swept track.

It proved to be an inspired choice, enabling him to reel in

Blundell's return 34

the front-runners at a prodigious pace, powering past the slick-shod machines ahead of him with nonchalant ease.

Harvey, confirming his reputation as a "rain-master", snatched second place from Alain Menu, the championship leader, on the penultimate lap and had the Honda Accord of Tarquini in his sights on the run to the chequered flag.

He was slightly held up by a back-marker through the final corner and, but for the interference, he might have pipped Tarquini at the post instead of losing by just 0.67sec.

Harvey's performance, which brought Peugeot closer

to victory than ever before in its six-year participation in the championship, brought the Bank Holiday crowd of 22,000 to its feet.

"One more lap and I could have won," Harvey said. "You have to say it was an opportunity, but we all had the chance to make the same call on tyres."

"The car felt good, even in the dry, but when the safety car came out, I knew that my only real chance to move up the field was to duck into the pits and change to intermediate tyres."

Harvey was one of five drivers who gambled on making a pit stop for treaded tyres while the stricken Audi A4 of Frank Biela, the defending champion, who crashed on the first lap, was moved out of harm's way.

Harvey's charge from the tail of the field was almost matched by the progress of Anthony Reid, in a Nissan Primera, and Derek Warwick, in a Vauxhall Vectra, who also clawed through the stragglers to finish fourth and sixth respectively.

The result confirmed Harvey's belief that the 406 is close to ending winning a race for Peugeot, as well as providing much-needed encouragement for the Motor Sport Development team, which this year has taken over management of the company's touring car programme.

"The 406 is a good car," Harvey said. "It wins in Germany and there's no reason



Biela, the defending touring car champion, whose Audi A4 crashed on the first lap at Thruxton yesterday

why it shouldn't win here. I believe we'll win a race before the end of the season."

While Harvey was exulted by his tactical result, Tarquini and Menu were unhappy that the 22-lap race was allowed to continue, both describing conditions during the middle of the event as dangerous.

"When it started raining, I decided to play it safe," said

Menu, whose pole position-winning Renault Laguna was beaten away at the start by Tarquini's Honda. "I think they should have stopped the race because it was getting dangerous."

Tarquini, the 1994 champion, said: "I agree with Alain that it was too dangerous in the middle of the race. The safety car should have come

out again for a few laps. My car was good and I decided to take a big chance and drive very hard. At one stage, I had a very big moment — my car was 90 degrees sideways. But it is good to win again. It is a very important result for Honda."

Menu's third place, on top of his similarly cautious third in the fifth round, which was

won by Biela from Tarquini, extended his lead in the championship to 35 points over Rickard Rydell, of Sweden, who is two points clear of Tarquini.

After performing poorly in qualifying on Saturday, Rydell recovered from his lowly starting positions to finish fifth in both races in his Volvo S40.

FOR THE RECORD

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RUGBY LEAGUE

Video official poised for Wembley debut

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

A VIDEO official is likely to be introduced for the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final next season after a test run was successfully carried out in the match between St Helens and Bradford Bulls on Saturday.

The video official and big screen for spectators have been successful features of televised Super League matches since they were introduced at the start of the competition last year.

Positioning a screen at Wembley Stadium when it is full would be a problem, but Maurice Lindsay, the Rugby Football League (RFL) chief executive, wants a video referee to adjudicate on hairline scoring decisions from television replays.

"Everyone accepts that at least one try on Saturday was very dubious," Lindsay said. "After watching televised Super League matches this season, the lack of a big screen facility stuck out like a sore thumb. Next year will be the last before Wembley is redeveloped, so that the new stadium, when completed, will have an in-built big screen."

The fifth St Helens try, by Anthony Sullivan, contained a forward pass and the television replay clearly indicated that he had not grounded the ball. There also may have been some obstruction in one of the Bradford tries that bypassed Stuart Cummings, the referee, and the in-goal judge.

A video official will make a first appearance at Wembley for the opening Great Britain v Australia international, on November 1, the first meeting between the countries under the Super League banner. If agreement is reached for a video official for the Challenge Cup final next year, the system might be extended to all televised cup matches.

As neither the video official nor big screen operates in non-televised matches in the Super League, however, there are inequities in the system that need to be addressed for the sake of consistency. Televised Super League matches are effectively operating under a different set of rules and there is a danger of the same happening from next year in the Challenge Cup.

The RFL executive committee will today view a video of the incident in the second half of the match between St Helens and Bradford Bulls on Saturday. The video will be shown to the referee, the penalty referee, being reported by the referee. The penalty against Martin was for a spear tackle on Abi Ekoku, although the pictures indicate that it was a rather less threatening Cumberland throw.

Although no bones were broken in his right foot, Robbie Paul, the Bradford captain, will undergo further tests to diagnose the nature and extent of his injury. "He is still in a lot of discomfort, and we're not sure how long he'll be out at this stage," Matthew Elliott, the Bradford coach, said.

Paul will miss the home Super League match against St Helens on Sunday, and the condition of Sonny Nickle is also giving Bradford cause for concern. Nickle, a second row forward, is suspected of having aggravated an old arm injury after suffering another hairline fracture.

Yesterday, Lindsay was non-committal about the future of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup, won in front of a part-filled Wembley by Hull Kingston Rovers. "We will have a debriefing about how effective the Plate was, but, of course, we have to be careful not to dilute the quality of the day as a whole," he said.

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MLB: New York Yankees 5, Los Angeles Dodgers 3 (Dwight Gooden 10th inning).
Premier League: Tottenham 1, Arsenal 0 (A. Cole 10th min).

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MLB: New York Yankees 5, Los Angeles Dodgers 3 (Dwight Gooden 10th inning).
Premier League: Tottenham 1, Arsenal 0 (A. Cole 10th min).

FOOTBALL
FA Cup: Tottenham 1, Arsenal 0 (A. Cole 10th min).
Premier League: Tottenham 1, Arsenal 0 (A. Cole 10th min).

BASKETBALL
NBA: Los Angeles Lakers 101, Boston Celtics 95 (Kareem Abdul-Jabbar 25 points).
Premier League: Tottenham 1, Arsenal 0 (A. Cole 10th min).

BASEBALL
MLB: New York Yankees 5, Los Angeles Dodgers 3 (Dwight Gooden 10th inning).
Premier League: Tottenham 1, Arsenal 0 (A. Cole 10th min).

CRICKET
Test: Australia 308, England 271 (Steve Waugh 100 runs).
Premier League: Tottenham 1, Arsenal 0 (A. Cole 10th min).

ATHLETICS
100m: Michael Johnson 9.8s.
Premier League: Tottenham 1, Arsenal 0 (A. Cole 10th min).

BASEBALL
MLB: New York Yankees 5, Los Angeles Dodgers 3 (Dwight Gooden 10th inning).
Premier League: Tottenham 1, Arsenal 0 (A. Cole 10th min).

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FOOTBALL: DETERMINED MOTHERWELL KEEP SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIP CHAMPAGNE ON ICE AT IBROX

Rangers learn cost of complacency

Rangers 0
Motherwell 2

By Kevin McCann

ALL the presumption that has surrounded Rangers for weeks seeped into the club itself yesterday. Before kick-off, the splendid new video screens at Ibrox displayed scenes from the eight consecutive championships that they have already won, before flashing up the figure nine. It was footage that a prudent person would have reserved for the post-match celebrations after the necessary point had been secured.

Perhaps Motherwell felt as if they were being treated with condescension and, perhaps,

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	34	24	5	5	55	30	77
Celtic	34	22	7	5	70	32	71
Dundee Utd	34	17	9	8	48	39	60
Hearts	35	13	10	12	43	42	49
Dundee	35	12	8	15	40	53	44
Aberdeen	35	10	13	12	44	53	40
Motherwell	35	9	10	16	42	53	37
Stirling	35	9	10	16	37	54	37
Kilmarnock	34	11	4	19	40	60	37
Perth	35	6	8	21	38	72	24

the already great resolve of a team still at risk of relegation was doubled. Certainly, with their sturdy defending and neat counter-attacks, Motherwell will not only relish the joy of victory but also proclaim its justice.

A greater sense of humility is liable to accompany Rangers to the match with Dundee United at Tannadice tomorrow, but it remains virtually certain that the club will collect the Bell's Scottish League premier division trophy, so equalling the record of nine titles in succession set by Celtic between 1966 and 1974.

Even if Rangers were to lose their last two games, a surprise goal difference, which stands at ten, would probably still keep Celtic at bay. These, however, are factors that few people at Ibrox can have expected to be exploring yesterday. Motherwell, ninth in the table before this result,



Gascoigne, right, attempts to break through the Motherwell defence yesterday as Rangers struggle at Ibrox. Photograph: Ian Stewart

hardly looked likely to sabotage the celebrations. Football has a habit, however, of demanding abrupt reappraisals: and, from the opening exchanges, it was clear that a genuine contest was breaking out. Rangers had not played a game for almost three weeks, but Walter Smith, their manager, felt that the period of inactivity had dulled the appetite more than it blunted the team's edge.

"Over that period," he said, "everyone has told them that they have won the championship. Everyone except me. We showed what can happen if you are not careful and you are not fully up for the game." Smith also pointed out that

charges of complacency could be levelled against the press as much as his squad. It is, however, the players who have paid the higher price for that vice.

Motherwell hogged possession in the early passages and scored in the seventh minute, when McMillan forced the ball across the area and Coyne turned to sweep it low past Dibble for the first of his two goals. Rangers had suffered more than a mere glitch and, for a while, they were likelier to fall further behind than to recover their poise.

In the eighth minute, Dibble pushed over a Coyne drive and, five minutes later, Coyne flicked a header a little high of

the target. After 22 minutes, Rangers might have scored, when Hateley leapt to Laudrup's cross and smacked the ball against the face of the bar, but that was a rare interruption to the course of the first half.

Any exasperation within Motherwell's ranks stemmed principally from a failure to entrench their position. In the 37th minute, Dibble had scuffed the ball straight to Coyne and the forward shot weakly back to the goalkeeper, from 20 yards, when he could have sent Weir through with a simple pass. Motherwell, nonetheless, had reason for self-satisfaction.

In defence, Martin and Van

der Gaag not only won the serial challenges but also proved incisive on the ground, frequently ending attacks with a clean tackle. Once in possession, Motherwell were adept at finding routes down which they could break.

After the interval, Rangers did at last assert themselves, but then found themselves colliding with an adverse fate. Gascoigne, who had been introduced as a substitute, mysteriously placed a Robertson cross wide of the post in the sort of situation that normally sees him demonstrate finesse. It was to be Motherwell who produced the last, decisive piece of accuracy.

Seven minutes from the end,

Burns, a substitute, swept over a low cross from the left and Durrant, another substitute, brought down Weir as he attempted a challenge. Coyne tucked away the penalty. Motherwell are now seventh and can remove all risk of relegation if they win against Aberdeen on Saturday. It was not the achievement that had been expected from this match.

RANGERS (3-5-2): A Dibble — A McLennan, R Gough, J Boydland — A McLennan, C Moore (sub), P Gascoigne (46m), J Alberty (sub), I Durrant, 78, S Laudrup, D Robertson — G Dine (sub), A McColl, 78, M Hume.

MOTHERWELL (4-4-2): S Howie — E May, M van der Gaag, S Martin, I Ross — M Weir, S Vassilar, S McMillan, S McSkimming (sub), A Burns, 80 — T Coyne (sub), D Arnold, 72, D Coyle.

Referee: J Robertson

Brazil return to provide masterclass

ROB HUGHES



Overseas View

The impish delicacy with which Juninho laced together and scored a goal at Old Trafford yesterday, followed by the extravagant power with which Emerson scored another for Middlesbrough against Manchester United were reminders of the quality that makes Brazil indisputably football's master race. Brazil needed neither player when they put on a display that exceeded even the style of the 1994 World Cup team in eclipsing Mexico in Miami's Orange Bowl a week ago.

How strange the football world is. A team becomes the best on earth, and then is effectively withdrawn for four years from the competitive cycle of the game. Brazil have no need to qualify for the 1998 World Cup in France and, but for the commercial dealings of Nike, we would hardly see the team in the interim.

Team Nike has filled the vacuum. Nike is sponsoring the Brazil national team to the tune of \$200 million over ten years, figuring that Brazil is the best country in which to increase its sales.

Nike demands a \$300,000 appearance fee each time that the team plays, but the agreement ensures that the full Brazil team, give or take the priorities at Middlesbrough, will turn out in places such as Miami. For those with a satellite dish, and with stamina to burn, last Wednesday was enlightening and rewarding.

First, from Wembley, there was England versus Georgia. For technique and imagination the match rated, say, six out of ten.

Then came Italy against Poland in Naples, Italy, liberated under Cesare Maldini, the new coach, who has in turn liberated his son, Paolo, as a cavalier attacking wing back, upped the rating to at least eight out of ten.

And then, come midnight, Eurosport tuned in live to Brazil versus Mexico in Miami. It was a stellar performance by Brazil, ten out of ten. In 18 minutes, Brazil, stung by some arrogant pretensions by Mexico, scored three times.

Djalminha, a clever mid-field crafter, chipped the ball forward with backspin. Leonardo, in 1994 a defender who smashed his elbow into the face of United States player, Tab Ramos, wore the No 10 shirt that is coveted by Juninho. How elegantly he read the spin on the ball, how expertly he timed his run and how deftly he rolled in the first goal with his left foot.

But if Nike has put the boots on any feet that matter, it has been with their insistence that Romario returns to national prominence. He had burnt his bridges, gone wild in his private and public life, grown fat and addicted to lazing on the beach. Romario, now 31, is suddenly slimmer than we knew him, restored

against the wishes of Mario Zagalo, the coach, and full of dancing improvisation.

Romario earned a penalty for his first goal, his 33rd for Brazil. Five minutes after that, when Cafu athletically burst down the right, Romario scored again, this time with a right-foot volley from knee height, lashed over the goalkeeper from 18 yards.

His hair is thinning, but his skills are certainly not receding, and his hunger was assuaged in the second half when he completed his hat-trick and Brazil's 4-0 rout of Mexico.

England, of course, are due to meet France and Italy and Brazil in the Tournoi de France in June. If the opposition provided by Brazil is anything like as

balanced, as determined and as sweet as last week, the gulf in class could be ominous.

For the record this was Brazil's 11th in goal, shaven headed Taffarel.

Across the back Cafu, a rejuvenated Marcelo Santos, the dependable André Cruz and Roberto Carlos. In midfield, solidly anchoring the team, Dunga, now 34, and Mauro Silva with Djalminha and Leonardo free to create. For whom? For Romario and, inevitably, the young god Ronaldo. Football to dream about.

But not all dreams reach fulfillment. Remember, at the start of the year, the story of Mouscron, the Belgian side promoted and leading their championship? All has been lost. Georges Leekens, their coach, defected to lead the national side taking with him Dominique Lemoine and the Zairean-born brothers, Mbo and Emilie Mpenza, who have been naturalised to play for Belgium. Soon oran Vidovic, Mouscron's Serb striker, who has also become a Belgian national, will be called up as well.

Distractions for the Mouscron team, and the town of 53,000 inhabitants has, not surprisingly, seen its team slip away from the leadership. They now lie ten points behind Lierse and eight behind FC Bruges.

Dreams, unless supported by boot manufacturers, do not come again.

'Romario is slimmer than we knew him'

Flo makes an offer to warm the heart

IN AN era of increasing wage demands and decreasing loyalty among players, a tale to warm the heart emerged from Scandinavia yesterday (Russell Kempson writes). Tor Andre Flo, Chelsea's latest foreign import, has offered to pay SK Brann Bergen, his Norwegian club, £200,000 from his own pocket by way of compensation for his departure.

Flo, 23, agreed to join Chelsea last Thursday, the first day of the six-month pre-contract "window" that, under the Bosman ruling, allows a player to sign for another club on a free transfer. He will continue to play for Brann until his contract expires at the end of October. Yet Brann still felt aggrieved at the turn of events,

having reached a gentlemen's agreement with Flo that he would sign for another club before May 1, thus giving them a fee. Though they turned down an offer of £10 million from Southampton earlier this season, they had agreed a figure of £2.6 million with Everton in March only for Everton to pull out of the move.

Colin Hutchinson, the Chelsea managing director, acted swiftly to secure Flo's signature at the first possible moment and for nothing, but it left Flo, the Norway striker, feeling guilty. "I don't feel good about this," he said yesterday, "but the offer was too good to turn down. I hope I can repay Brann by giving them some money. It is the only way I know how."

Chairmen reluctant to regionalise

By Russell Kempson

CLUB chairmen in the Football League have reacted cautiously to radical plans to split the Nationwide League third division into northern and southern sections. When the proposals are put before the 72 club representatives at a specially convened meeting in London on Thursday, it is likely that they will receive a lukewarm response.

Many chairmen have yet to see a copy of the report, which the League has commissioned from Deloitte Touche, the consultancy firm, and are annoyed at the way in which the recommendations have been made public before they have had time to digest them. Many also view a return to the north-south divide, which was abandoned in 1958, as logistically unworkable.

Trevor Watkins, the chairman of the trust fund that rescued Bournemouth from extinction this season, is unconvinced by the proposed move. "Until we get all the information, it is difficult to make any solid judgement," he said, "but I can foresee a lot of problems."

"I think it's time for the clubs to cut their cloth accordingly and sort themselves out, but not by regionalisation. We have to get away from the egocentric, autocracy of one person running a club. Clubs have now got to be run like a proper business."

"A common perception is that, if you throw money at things, it solves the problem, but all it does is mask it. We should look more at the redistribution of wealth, but not use it to hide the problems of the past."

Robin Sharpe, the chief executive of Swansea City, was similarly nonplussed. "We're against the proposals," he said. "I don't think it's right to split up the division and it would be very much a backward step."

John Reames, the Lincoln City chairman and former member of the Football League board, echoed the sentiments. "I really don't think this is on," he said. "I don't believe the clubs from the third division will support this. It doesn't really make a lot of sense, from an economic or football point of view."

Under the new proposals, the 24 third division members would be joined by 14 clubs from the Vauxhall Conference — the League's feeder league — and be split in half. Yet, until the plans are fully revealed, at a press conference in

London today, nobody is quite sure how the promotion and relegation issues would be settled.

However, the report, which could not be implemented until at least the start of the 1998-99 season, does have its supporters. "Regionalisation would have to reduce costs and travel expenses," Ivor Doble, the Exeter City chairman, said. "It would create more derby matches and that's got to be good news."

Peter Hill, the chairman of Hereford United, who were demoted into the Conference on Saturday, said: "We'll be voting in favour. Increasing revenue and lowering overheads is what it's all about. We've loved visiting the likes of Darlington and Hartlepool — they're smashing people — but we could all do without the travelling."

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Esso PRICEWATCH

Rob Hughes discovers a corner of the equestrian world that will remain forever England

Minor controversy ignites main event

Middleton on the Berkshire Downs a rider and her steed canter in the shimmering heat. The young woman and her glistering bay gelding are taking their daily exercise, striding out for unity, for movement, for the harmony between human and equine minds that they have developed through six years.

It is a picture of rural England. All is serene, but, at the weekend, Daisy Dick will put her animal to the ultimate test of courage, stamina and faith. They will be riding at Badminton, the most intimidating cross country trial known to man or beast.

"One horse, one rider" has become very much the theme, and the controversy of Badminton this year, faced with a record 151 entries, the directors had to do something to whittle the field down to the maximum 80. They chose to limit overseas riders, even the great ones and those based in England, to one horse each, irrespective of the quality of their second and third strings. One withering sentence, from Blyth Tait, the New Zealand rider who is the Olympic champion, rankles with young English entrants:

"It will be disappointing for the public, who expect to see the best available talent. Instead, they will see the best riders with one horse - along with Samantha Clipperton-Clop from up the road."

If you wish to stir the competitive hackles of Daisy Dick, try linking her to that slur.

"I'm certainly not Miss Clipperton-Clop on a cart-horse or whatever Blyth Tait called her," Dick said at her home just up the M4 from Badminton. Just as she has never responded to her Christian name, Catherine, she has no intention of rising to the derogatory tone of the master riders who feel that the English entrants should be denied their opportunity over the hallowed and harassing Badminton grounds.

Dick has the benefit of an Oxford education, a degree in zoology... and the pedigree of a family in which her mother, Caroline, rode to twelfth place at Badminton, and her father, Dave, rode a Grand National winner. So it is in the genes: the style, the competitiveness, the refusal to accept that even in a world that has ignored her best years and come forward with no main sponsor, she and her horse can be denied their tilt at the big one.

"I hope this isn't going to prove the kiss of death," she said, "but my horse has been at it for ages. He's in under his own merit, he has a damn sight more points than many of the foreign entries. Fourteen may be an unusual age for him to be competing in his first Badminton, but there are reasons for that."

Those reasons are both human and equine. Headley Bravo, the horse, has found his feet, literally, after years in which he struggled because of tender soles. The Dick family found him an expert farrier in Ian Belcher, who, day by day, month by month, worked on the horse's feet, strengthening them and reshaping the plates. Now Dick, his owner, insists: "He's a changed horse, and now he's over the problems with his feet, he's more than worth his chance."

And the human element? "Oh, I've changed tactics. I suppose from mum and dad I inherited the madness over cross country. I wanted to win every time out. I didn't prioritise."

"Mum suggested I tried to ride him with a bit more care, be a bit less wild. It's working, he's galloping through now at the finish, though if I'm not purple in the face when we come to the end of Badminton, then I'm sure the family will think I haven't given it everything. You don't have to go hell for leather in the minor three-day events, but for Badminton, you must prepare to give every last ounce."

She cannot know exactly how Headley Bravo will respond with almost 200,000 spectators on the course on Saturday. She has ridden her other horse, Little Victor, twice at the event, but as bold and as brave as he was, he simply would not jump into the Lake. "We called it a day with him," Dick, 25, said. "He has become arthritic."

It wouldn't be fair to him, and, to tell you the truth, I think his mind is going as well. They say that to jump Badminton the horse and rider need perfect trust, or the horse has to be quite stupid in obeying orders."

Stupidity would get them nowhere. This is the consummate examination of intelligence allied to cavalier boldness. A rogue instinct, running wild, would soon be exposed, and, by 4.30pm tomorrow, when the entrants have trotted up their horses before the vets, there will be no suspect partnerships entered for the 1997 Badminton.

It will be a compelling spectacle. *Le concours complet*, as the French call three-day eventing, requires, on consecutive days, the control of dressage, a measured leaping quality across country, and then the precision of showjumping. More than that, as Dick has found, it examines the mental toughness of the partnership. "You can walk the course four times, measure every fence and decide every angle in your mind," she said, "and then, on the Saturday, you find you are galloping

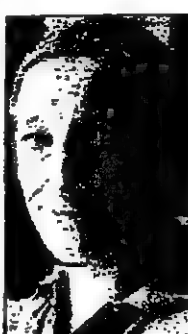
through a tunnel of thousands of people; the horse can't see the next fence, can't anticipate it, and it is up to you to transmit to him what is coming."

Dick cannot be certain of the next turn in her own life. She bought Headley Bravo as a young rider's horse, initially with ambitions in showjumping. She won her first class one three-day event, on Little Victor, at Windsor, at the age of 20, and has been striving for another triumph ever since. It has been elusive, although last year she had four lesser victories on Headley Bravo and finished third at Boekelo, in Holland, and ranks in the top ten in this country; indeed, the European listing puts Headley Bravo third.

"My ambition is to try to get a really nice team of horses," she said, "I wouldn't want more than five or six, but I do need to improve the quality if I am to challenge really top riders like Mary Thomson and Blyth Tait. But I'm aware that I've got a degree to fall back on: I can't keep on leeching off my parents for ever. If I did really well this season, and still didn't find a sponsor, I might have to start thinking of working for a living."

That, however, is not uppermost in her mind. First is the challenge, and the privilege, of being a British competitor at Badminton. At Oxford University, she rowed and played lacrosse for Worcester College. No equestrianism? "I applied to the Oxford Riding Club and they asked how high I could jump," she said. "I replied that it depended what horse I was riding, and I didn't bother with the riding club."

Independent, unsuayed, she feels that she has earned the right to join the club at Badminton, and the words of the late Lieutenant Colonel Frank Weldon, the designer who set up Badminton as the most intimidating test of horsemanship, come to mind: "It's the blood that counts... in human beings too."



'You must prepare to give every last ounce'



Country style: Dick puts Headley Bravo through his paces in preparation for the Badminton trials

IS FROM YESTERDAY'S TEN BANK HOLIDAY MEETINGS

Kempton Park

Going good

2.10 (m) 1. ANOTHER FANTASY (Dane O'Neill, 12-3); 2. Indian Silver (T. Quinn, 12-1); 3. Sneezy (D. Quinn, 12-1); 4. Sneezy (D. Quinn, 12-1); 5. Sneezy (D. Quinn, 12-1); 6. Sneezy (D. Quinn, 12-1); 7. Sneezy (D. Quinn, 12-1); 8. Sneezy (D. Quinn, 12-1); 9. Sneezy (D. Quinn, 12-1); 10. Sneezy (D. Quinn, 12-1); 11. Sneezy (D. Quinn, 12-1); 12. Sneezy (D. Quinn, 12-1); 13. Sneezy (D. Quinn, 12-1); 14. Sneezy (D. Quinn, 12-1); 15. Sneezy (D. Quinn, 12-1); 16. Sneezy (D. Quinn, 12-1); 17. Sneezy (D. Quinn, 12-1); 18. Sneezy (D. Quinn, 12-1); 19. Sneezy (D. Quinn, 12-1); 20. Sneezy (D. Quinn, 12-1); 21. Sneezy (D. Quinn, 12-1); 22. Sneezy (D. Quinn, 12-1); 23. Sneezy (D. Quinn, 12-1); 24. Sneezy (D. Quinn, 12-1); 25. Sneezy (D. Quinn, 12-1); 26. Sneezy (D. Quinn, 12-1); 27. Sneezy (D. Quinn, 12-1); 28. Sneezy (D. Quinn, 12-1); 29. Sneezy (D. Quinn, 12-1); 30. Sneezy (D. Quinn, 12-1); 31. Sneezy (D. Quinn, 12-1); 32. Sneezy (D. Quinn, 12-1); 33. Sneezy (D. Quinn, 12-1); 34. Sneezy (D. 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The ITF players, their points and their values if you are considering the transfer option

GOALKEEPERS

Code	Name	Team	Sm	Pts	Wk	Cl
10101	M Watt	Aberdeen	1.50	0	-12	
10102	N Walker	Aberdeen	1.00	0	-14	
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	-1	-37	
10202	V Bartram	Arsenal	0.75	0	0	
10203	J Lukic	Arsenal	0.75	0	+1	
10301	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	3.50	0	+26	
10302	M Hakes	Aston Villa	1.00	0	+17	
10401	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	-3	-5	
10402	S Given	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	+4	
10501	G Marshall	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	-1	-2	
10502	S Kerr	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0	+30	
10601	D Kharine	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+10	
10602	K Hitchcock	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	-27	
10603	F Prosser	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	-27	
10701	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	-3	-41	
10702	J Folan	Coventry City	0.50	0	0	
10801	M Taylor	Derby County	1.00	0	-2	
10802	R Hault	Derby County	1.00	0	-41	
10803	M Poom	Derby County	1.00	-1	-3	
10901	A Maxwell	Dundee United	0.50	0	+4	
10902	L Dwyer	Dundee United	0.50	0	+4	
10903	P Skelly	Dundee United	2.50	+5	+4	
11001	I Westwater	Dunfermline	0.50	-1	-58	
11101	N Southall	Everton	2.50	-5	-33	
11102	P Gerrard	Everton	2.50	0	+1	
11201	G Rousset	Hibernian	2.00	0	-5	
11301	J Leighton	Hibernian	1.50	-5	-36	
11401	D Leckie	Kilmarnock	1.50	0	-36	
11501	M Beatty	Leeds United	1.50	0	+5	
11502	P Evans	Leeds United	0.25	0	0	
11503	N Martyn	Leeds United	2.50	+5	+41	
11601	K Poole	Leicester City	1.00	0	-19	
11602	K Keller	Leicester City	1.00	-3	-22	
11701	D James	Liverpool	5.00	-1	+14	
11702	T Warner	Liverpool	0.50	0	0	
11703	J Nielsen	Liverpool	1.00	0	0	
11801	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00	-3	+3	
11802	R Van Der Gouw	Manchester United	1.00	0	+2	
11901	G Walsh	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-20	
11902	B Roberts	Middlesbrough	1.50	-3	-4	
11903	M Sahwan	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	0	
12001	S Howie	Motherwell	1.50	0	-25	
12101	S Hsieh	Newcastle United	3.00	-1	-18	
12102	P Smith	Newcastle United	3.00	+5	+6	
12201	M Crossley	Nottingham Forest	2.50	-4	-49	
12202	A Fattis	Nottingham Forest	0.75	-1	-1	
12301	S Thomson	Raith Rovers	0.50	-3	-77	
12401	A Goram	Rangers	5.00	0	+29	
12402	A Dibble	Rangers	3.50	0	+10	
12501	K Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	-9	-15	
12502	M Clarke	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0	0	
12601	D Beattie	Southampton	1.00	0	-28	
12602	N Moss	Southampton	0.25	0	+2	
12603	M Taylor	Southampton	1.00	+5	+8	
12702	L Perez	Sunderland	0.50	-5	-37	
11803	T Coton	Sunderland	1.00	0	+9	
12801	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50	-3	-11	
12802	E Baardson	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	+1	+1	
12901	L Mioduski	West Ham United	1.00	-1	-2	
13001	M Suckling	Wimbledon	1.00	-1	-2	
13002	P Heald	Wimbledon	1.00	0	-4	

FULL BACKS

Code	Name	Team	Sm	Pts	Wk	Cl
20101	S McKimmie	Aberdeen	2.00	0	+8	
20201	L Dixon	Arsenal	3.00	-1	-38	
20202	N Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00	0	+49	
20301	S Staunton	Aston Villa	3.00	-4	-38	
20302	A Wright	Aston Villa	2.50	0	+63	
20303	G Charles	Aston Villa	2.50	0	0	
20304	F Nelson	Aston Villa	3.00	-2	-48	
20401	H Berg	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	-1	-28	
20402	G Leaux	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	-1	-30	
20403	J Kenna	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	-1	-21	
20404	G Croft	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	0	+2	
20501	J McNamee	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0	+38	
20502	T McKinlay	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0	+23	
20601	D Peacock	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	+4	+31	
20602	S Clarke	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	+7	
20603	S Milne	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	+3	-1	
20701	D Burrows	Coventry City	1.50	-1	-11	
20702	B Burrows	Coventry City	1.00	0	-10	
20703	M Hall	Coventry City	1.00	0	+6	
20801	C Powell	Derby County	1.00	0	+10	
20802	D Yaxley	Derby County	1.00	0	+4	
20901	M Malpas	Dundee United	1.00	0	+55	
20902	M Perry	Dundee United	0.50	+1	+45	
20903	N Duffy	Dundee United	0.50	0	+10	
21001	C Miller	Dunfermline	0.25	0	-5	
21002	A Tod	Dunfermline	0.25	+3	-8	
21101	M Hogg	Everton	2.50	0	-8	
21102	A Hinchcliffe	Everton	2.50	0	-14	
21103	R Phillips	Everton	2.00	-2	-3	
21104	E Barrett	Everton	2.00	-2	-16	
21201	G Locke	Hearts	2.00	0	+25	
21202	N Poulton	Hearts	1.00	0	+24	
21301	V Miller	Hibernian	1.00	0	+7	
21302	A Dow	Hibernian	1.00	0	+12	
21402	D McPherson	Kilmarnock	1.50	0	-3	
21501	G Kelly	Leeds United	3.00	+4	+51	
21502	A Dorog	Leeds United	2.50	+2	+20	
21503	G Hall	Leeds United	1.00	+4	+40	
21601	M Whitlow	Leicester City	0.50	0	+6	
21602	S Grayson	Leicester City	0.50	-2	-7	
21603	F Rolling	Leicester City	0.25	0	0	
21701	R Jones	Liverpool	3.00	0	-3	
21702	S Harkness	Liverpool	1.50	0	-3	
21703	S Bjornbeie	Liverpool	0.50	0	+48	
21801	D Irwin	Manchester United	4.00	0	+30	
21802	G Neville	Manchester United	3.00	-1	-30	
21803	P Neville	Manchester United	3.00	-1	-1	
21901	N Cox	Middlesbrough	2.50	0	-11	
21902	T Morris	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-1	
21903	C Fleming	Middlesbrough	0.75	-2	-7	
21904	C Blackmore	Middlesbrough	0.25	-1	-13	
21905	V Kinnear	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	+2	
22002	S McMillan	Motherwell	0.50	0	+6	
22101	R Barton	Newcastle United	3.00	+4	+8	
22102	S Watson	Newcastle United	3.00	+3	+24	
22103	R Elliott	Newcastle United	2.50	+7	+23	
22104	J Beresford	Newcastle United	2.50	+4	+11	
22201	S Pearce	Nottingham Forest	4.00	-1	-10	
22202	D Lytle	Nottingham Forest	2.00	0	+9	
22203	A Hyslop	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	+20	
22204	N Jerkins	Nottingham Forest	0.75	-4	-4	
22301	P Boner	Raith Rovers	0.75	0	-16	
22302	D Kirkwood	Raith Rovers	0.50	-1	-13	
22401	D Robertson	Rangers	2.50	0	+45	
22402	J Brown	Rangers	2.00	0	0	
22501	I Nolan	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	+4	+25	
22502	P Atherton	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	+4	+25	
22503	S Nicol	Sheffield Wednesday	1.00	-2	-7	
22504	D Stefanovic	Sheffield Wednesday	1.00	-4	-6	
22505	L Briscoe	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0	+3	
22601	J Dodd	Southampton	1.50	0	-4	
22602	F Senall	Southampton	0.75	0	+6	
22603	S Charlton	Sunderland	0.75	0	+4	
22701	D Kubicki	Sunderland	0.50	0	+5	
22702	M Scott	Sunderland	0.50	0	+4	
22703	G Hall	Sunderland	0.25	0	+1	
22704	J Eriksson	Sunderland	1.50	0	-1	
22801	D Austin	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	-1	-7	
22802	C Wilton	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00	0	+12	
22803	J Edinburg	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0	+15	
22804	D Kerslake	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	0	
22805	S Carr	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0	-3	
22901	J Dicks	West Ham United	4.00	0	+23	
22902	T Brackner	West Ham United	1.00	0	+3	
22903	K Rowland	West Ham United	1.00	0	+2	
22904	M Bowen	West Ham United	1.50	0	+5	
23001	B Thatcher	Wimbledon	0.75	0	+13	
23002	A Kinnear	Wimbledon	0.75	0	+25	
23003	K Cunningham	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0	
23004	D Jupp	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0	
23005	C Perry	Wimbledon	0.25	-1	-39	

CENTRAL DEFENDERS

Code	Name	Team	Sm	Pts	Wk	Cl
30101	R Irvine	Aberdeen	2.00	0	-8	
30102	C Woodthorpe	Aberdeen	1.50	+1	+2	
30103	A Konradsen	Aberdeen	2.50	+3	+4	
30201	A Adams	Arsenal	3.00	0	+43	
30202	S Bould	Arsenal	3.00	0	+41	
30203	M Keown	Arsenal	3.00	0	+50	
30204	S Marshall	Arsenal	1.00	0	+14	
30301	G Southgate	Aston Villa	3.50	-2	-40	
30302	U Ehiogu	Aston Villa	3.50	+1	+71	
30303	R Schmeichel	Aston Villa	1.00	0	+28	



Paul Kitson, of West Ham, ITF-rated at £1.5 million, celebrates the second of his three goals against Sheffield Wednesday

Code	Name	Team	Sm	Pts	Wk	Cl
30401	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	4.00	-1	-31	
30402	I Pearce	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	-1	-2	
30403	C Coleman	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	-3	
30404	N Marker	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0	+6	
30501	T Boyd	Celtic	3.00	0	+33	
30502	M MacKay	Celtic	1.50	0	+37	
30503	A Stubbs	Celtic	3.50	0	+22	
30504	B O'Neil	Celtic	3.00	0	+4	
30505	E Anson	Celtic	3.00	0	+4	
30506	M Doolan	Chelsea	2.50	0	+1	
30601	F Labouchere	Chelsea	2.50	0	+33	
30603	F Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00	+3	+1	
30604	D Lee	Chelsea	2.00	0	+3	
30605	A Myers	Chelsea	1.50	0	+5	
30606	E Johnson	Chelsea	1.50	+3	+18	
30701	L Walsh	Coventry City	2.00	0	+6	
30702	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	-1	-2	
30703	G Breen	Coventry City	1.50	-1	-2	
30706	A Evtushok	Coventry City	1.50	0	+1	
30801	I Stimson	Derby County	2.50	0	-10	
30802	D Weir	Derby County	1.00	0	0	
30303	P McGrath	Derby County	2.50	0	-4	
30803	J Latham	Derby County	1.00	0	+12	
30804	M Carson	Derby County	0.50	0	-5	
30901	S Pressley	Dunfermline	1.00	+4	+54	
31001	M Miller	Dunfermline	0.75	0	-8	
31002	I Den Blijen	Dunfermline	0.75	-1	-19	
31101	D Unsworth	Everton	2.50	0	+12	
31102	D Watson	Everton	2.50	-2	-12	
31103	C Short	Everton	2.00	0	+6	
31201	D McPherson	Hearts	1.00	0	+30	
31202	P Riegan	Hearts	1.00	0	+34	
31301	J McLaughlin	Hibernian	0.50	-3	-4	
30902	B Walsh	Hibernian	0.75	0	+9	
31302	G Hunter	Hibernian	0.50	0	-3	
32302	S Dennis	Hibernian	1.00	0	-18	
31401	M Reilly	Kilmarnock	1.00	-2	-13	
31402	R Montgomery	Kilmarnock	0.75	-2	-12	
31501	D Whitham	Leeds United	2.50	+4	+2	
31502	R Johnson	Leeds United	1.00	0	+2	
31503	L Radebe	Leeds United	1.00	+4	+30	
31504	J Pemberton	Leeds United	0.50	0	0	
31505	R Mowbray	Leeds United	2.00	0	+23	
31601	S Walsh	Leeds United	1.00	+2	+13	
31602	J Watts	Leeds United	1.00	0	+8	
31603	P Kamara	Leeds United	1.00	0	+4	
31604	E Orton	Leeds United	1.00	0	+4	
31605	M Elliott	Leeds United	1.50	-1	-4	
31701	P Babb	Liverpool	3.50	0	+24	
31703	M Wright	Liverpool	3.50	0	+30	
31704	N Ruddock	Liverpool	3.00	-1	-18	
31705	D Maitee	Liverpool	1.00	0	+26	
31706	B Kyriak	Liverpool	2.00	0	+3	
31901	P Beffler	Manchester United	2.00	0	+13	
31802	D May	Manchester United	3.00	0	-133	
31803	R Johnson	Manchester United	2.50	0	+21	
31901	N Pearson	Middlesbrough	1.50	-1	-6	
31902	S Vickers	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-6	
31903	D Whyte	Middlesbrough	1.50	-1	-10	
31904	P Whelan	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	-4	
31905	G Festis	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	-4	
32001	M White	Motherwell	-4	-15	0	
32002	M Van Der Gaag	Motherwell	0.75	0	-18	
32101	P Albert	Newcastle United	4.50	0	+18	
32102	S Howey	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+7	
32103	D Peacock	Newcastle United	3.00	+3	+21	
32201	C Cooper	Nottingham Forest	3.00	0	+5	
32202	S Hewitt	Nottingham Forest	2.50	+2	+13	
32203	G Blackwell	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	-5	
32303	D Craig	Raith Rovers	0.50	-1	-13	
32304	G Mitchell	Raith Rovers	0.50	-1	-11	
32401	R Gough	Rangers	3.50	0	+57	
32402	A McLaren	Rangers	3.00	0	+23	
32403	J Bjorklund	Rangers	3.50	0	+39	
32404	G Patrick	Rangers	2.50	0	+18	
32501	R McEneaney	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	0	+16	
32502	D Walker	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	+25	+25	
32503	B Linighan	Sheffield Wednesday	0.25	0	0	
32601	K Monkou	Southampton	1.50	0	-18	
32602	A Neilson	Southampton	1.00	0	+7	
32603	R Dryden	Southampton	0.50	+4	+3	
32604	S Lindholm	Southampton	0.50	0	-1	
32605	N Van Goolbe	Southampton	1.50	+3	-9	
32701	A McNeill	Sunderland	1.00	0	+12	
32702	K Ball	Sunderland	1.00	+4	+14	
32703	R Ord	Sunderland	0.50	+4	+18	
32801	S Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	-1	-23	
32802	D Harrison	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0	+8	
32802	C Caldwell	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	-1	-17	
32803	G Mabbitt	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0	0	
32806	S Nethcott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	-8	
32807	R Vega	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00	-1	-5	
32901	S Potts	West Ham United	2.75	+4	+14	
32902	A Ripper	West Ham United	2.50	+0	+4	
32903	S Potts	West Ham United	2.00	0	+3	
32904	R Hall	West Ham United	1.50	0	+4	
32905	R Ferdinand	West Ham United	0.50	-1	-6	
33001	A Pearce	Wimbledon	1.00	0	-2	
33003	A Reeves	Wimbledon	0.75	0	+18	
33004	D Blackwell	Wimbledon	0.50	0	-16	
33005	M McAlistair	Wimbledon	0.50	0	+12	
33006	S Fitzgerald	Wimbledon	0.25	0	0	

Supporters' vital role in the City

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

UNDERLAND supporters will be breathing slightly more easily after their win on Saturday at the club with the chance of survival in the FA Cup Premier League. Shareholders are also likely to be celebrating when the markets open today, as the shares climb to reflect the club's better business prospects if it stays in the top flight.

A backlash against football shares has set in during the past few months. Critics claim that the shares have been overpriced and overvalued. The fact that Sunderland's win can move the market so dramatically implies that football is too volatile to be regarded as a serious investment.

Shares, the argument runs, are best left to football fanatics and risk junkies, but there is reason to believe that the young sector is beginning to mature and behave more like other quoted businesses. Most important, the shareholders' turnover size to the ratio of players' wages to revenue to determine how much a club is worth. There is still little agreement on the best method of determining value, but shareholders now have access to a variety of measures and can quickly work out when a club's price looks over the top.

There is also an increasing sense that football stocks divide into two sub-sectors. Premium shares, such as Manchester United and Newcastle United, offer shareholders a guaranteed income stream, plus the potential bonus of a European campaign. Inevitably, they command a higher price. The second tier of shares, which includes Sunderland and other relegation candidates, such as Southampton, needs to take account of the increased risk of falling out of the Premiership. However, as in other stock market sectors, a lower base price can still leave non-premium-rated shares with room to grow.

The clubs also must bear some responsibility for the rather shaky debut performance of football shares. Many of these clubs had been run for years as personal fiefdoms by directors who were unused to the fierce glare of publicity that a public quote brings. However, directors are gradually being coached in the fine art of communicating effectively with the City.

Supporters are less worried about making a hefty profit on their investment than that the team's financial future is guaranteed. Some have been worried by the spivish behaviour of a few directors and elements in the City, fearing that their club was being sacrificed for a quick buck. If football is to survive as a long-term viable business, the supporters cannot be ignored. They are one of the principal sources of revenue.

There is no merit in a struggling club furloughing vital transfers to preserve the shareholders' dividend if the outcome is relegation and smaller attendances next year. Only time will tell if football's new business management is really up to the job of finding a balance between these conflicting demands. It is this question that investors should be asking when they examine whether football clubs are overpriced in the long term.

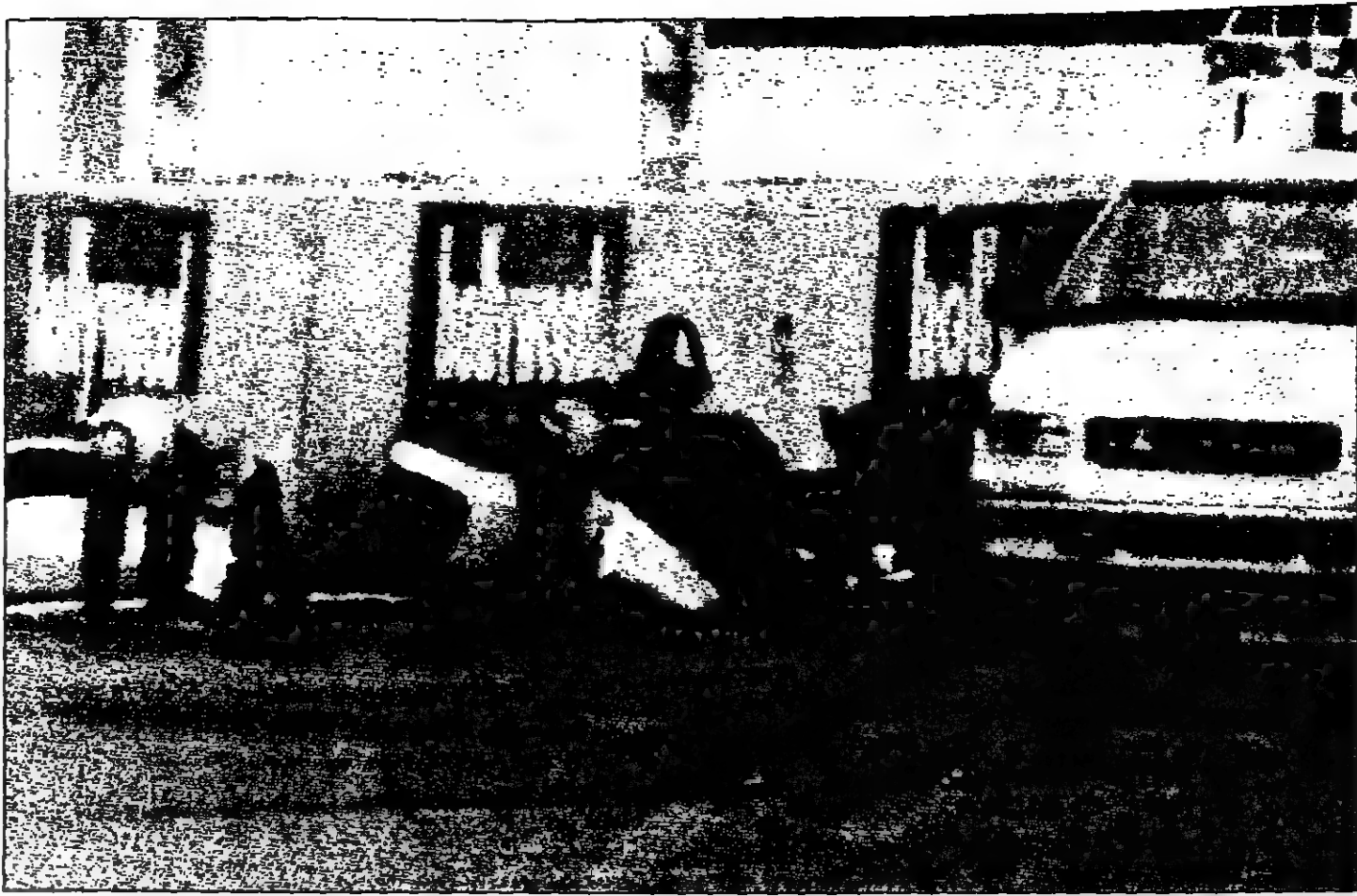


structure is starting to resemble that of more established stock market companies.

The first buyers of football shares were predominantly supporters and traders keen on making a quick profit. The country's most important long-term investors — the pension funds — stayed clear, worried by the risk factor.

However, a fledgling team of City analysts covering the sector have begun to move into football pitches, convinced that football has a future as a long-term business. This trend will enhance the stability of football shares and add credibility to the sector.

Progress also has been made on the thorny issue of placing a value on the club. Some clubs have arrived on the stock market with a value that seems to have been clucked out of thin air. Analysts have tried using everything from



Blundell crawls away from the wreckage after hitting a wall at the Emerson Fittipaldi Speedway in March of last year

Blundell drives away the demons

Tim Hallissey reports on an IndyCar driver's return to Rio, where he almost died last year

The last time that Mark Blundell was in Rio de Janeiro, he thought he was going to die. He was travelling at 200mph at the time and heading towards a wall of concrete. This week, he returns, the physical scars of the ensuing crash long healed but the insistent bug of emotive connections darkening the naturally effusive personality of a Barnet boy made good.

His career in IndyCar racing had run for one race and ten laps when, in March last year, a brake failure brought home with shuddering intensity the dangers of racing on oval circuits. He emerged with a broken foot, severe bruising on his lungs and chest and a whole new breed of demons in his head. Gradually, and with none of the bravado that is the apparent lifeblood of his profession, he has put them to flight, but one remains. Now, as the series returns once more to the Emerson Fittipaldi Speedway this weekend, it must be confronted.

"I am a bit apprehensive about it," he said. "When I go back to the circuit, and the turn where I nearly lost my life, it is going to be interesting in terms of how I am going to feel. Other people cannot imagine what goes through your mind when you are going at

200mph and there is nothing you can do about it. All you can think about is 'I am going to die.'"

The record shows that within seven weeks he was back in action, recording his best finish of the season — fifth — in the US 500 at Michigan. The statistics, though, hide the piecing together of a psychological jigsaw that leaves no room for rough-edged arrogance.

"I spent that evening, and the next two or three nights, just crying," he said. "I physically could not control my emotions. For the next six or seven weeks, I was saying: 'Do you really want to do this?' And the answer was 'Yes... no... yes... no...'"

Even when he climbed into the cockpit at Michigan — "to see if the fire was still burning" — the doubts were there. "I went out and did five laps and then I just had to come in and stop," he said. "I said to the guys in the pits: 'You've just got to give me a break. This is tough. Then I did a few more laps, then a few more, and at the end of the day, I got out of the car and said: 'That's it. But I was prepared to get out and never come back.'"

Aged 31, Blundell could have walked away into a comfort zone encircling his property and garage businesses, and a fledgling media career that includes regular contributions to Eurosport, the pan-European satellite broadcaster that covers the IndyCar series.

The people around me have been second to none, and I had to ask if I wanted my wife and kids to have the stress of sitting there every other weekend watching the TV," he said. "Ultimately, though, I have the decision and the responsibility and right now I still want to go out there and do it."

That resolve, which took him to sixteenth in the IndyCar championship last year, and third place in the rookie-of-the-year rankings, withstood another battering earlier this year. A crash during the pre-season build-up at Miami left him nursing more bruises and appeared to signal a troubled start to the new campaign, which has yet to provide meaningful reward.

Even so, Blundell is convinced that his future lies in IndyCar. A former winner of the Le Mans 24-hour race, he twice finished tenth

in the Formula One drivers' championship, recording third places in South Africa and Germany with Ligier in 1993. Having lost the McLaren drive last year, however, he declined the dubious opportunity to squabble for scraps at the back of the grid and instead transplanted himself to Paradise Valley, Arizona, and a race series that appropriately enough bearing in mind its American roots, prides itself on offering opportunities for all.

"In Formula One, the sporting element, the race on Sunday, is no more because there are only two or three teams worth driving for," he said. "I know what it is like in winning machinery and I know what it is like to be at the back of the grid in a pile of rubbish."

His intimate knowledge of what makes a car successful was gathered as a test driver for Williams in the early Nineties, a job that he left after being offered a full-time drive with a Brabham team slipping into decline. His post at Williams was filled by Damon Hill.

Such twists of fortune can make or break a sportsman's career, but Blundell knows that he can no more afford to look back in anger at that decision than he can at the crash in Rio. For now, at least, the race is still very much on.

TENNIS

Seles warns teenagers of pitfalls

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

NOBODY could accuse Monica Seles of not knowing what she was talking about in Rome yesterday. Her chosen subject was child prodigies in tennis and the parents who push them too hard and too quickly into the sport. She should know — there have been few children who have been as successful as early in the sport as Seles, the former world No 1.

As the Italian Open got underway, Seles, who won the tournament as a 16-year-old product of the Nick Bollettieri academy in Florida, was asked what she thought about the rise of a new generation of teenagers in the game that she once took by storm. "I've learnt not to expect much from kids," she said. "What I don't like at all is parents putting their children as soon as they are born on a tennis court and forcing them to like tennis. Sixteen-year-old kids just want to have fun and I think they should do."

Seles said that Martina Hingis was clearly the best emerging player at the moment, although most people might say that someone who has already captured the top ranking has already emerged. Hingis, of Switzerland, was to have been the No 1 seed at the Foro Italico this year, but she pulled out last month after injuring herself in a horse riding accident. With Steffi Graf, the world No 2, also absent, Seles is the clear favourite to win the tournament, although she was cautious yesterday.

"I got a very tough draw," she said. "There are very good players, even in the first rounds." A good job that she got a bye into the second round, then, where she will play Barbara Schett, of Austria.

One of those sure to be most interested in Seles' remarks is Anna Kournikova, the 15-year-old Russian, who promises to follow the trail blazed by Hingis as soon as she can. She has already criticised moves by the women's tour to curb the introduction of very young players to the professional game, moves that have restricted the number of tournaments that she can play in 1997, but yesterday she was concentrating on more pressing matters, with a first-round defeat of Shi-Ting Wang, of Taiwan, 6-4, 6-3.

In his first match since announcing that he will retire in the autumn, Michael Stich battled to a 6-4, 6-4 victory over Karol Kucera, of the Czech Republic, at the German Open in Hamburg.

Chancery Division

Law Report May 6 1997

Chancery Division

Pressing social needs relevant

Polonski v Lloyd's Bank Mortgagees Ltd
Before Mr Justice Jacob
Judgment March 25

The court was not limited to considering purely financial matters when exercising its discretion in order the sale of a mortgaged property. It was entitled to take into account pressing social needs and to look at all the reasons given by an owner for wanting to sell a mortgaged property at a time when the value of the property would be insufficient to pay off the outstanding mortgage and the owner was unlikely to be able to repay the shortfall.

Mr Justice Jacob so held in the Chancery Division when granting the plaintiff, Julia Christina Polonski, an order permitting sale of her property. Her application was opposed by Lloyd's Bank Mortgagees Ltd who provided the mortgage for the purchase of the property.

Mr Terence Bergin for the plaintiff; Mr David Phillips for the bank.

MR JUSTICE JACOB said that it was a negative equity case in which the plaintiff was the owner of a property in a run-down area in Mitcham, Surrey. She wished to sell the property at a proper value and not at an under value, to a housing association which owned two other houses in the terrace, and to move in Salisbury for strong social reasons.

The area in Mitcham was fairly rough and there were graphic accounts of problem families, drug dealers, violence, and so on. She had been thrown into her back yard and local youths gathering outside the door.

She believed that in Salisbury the schooling would be better for her two small children, that she would have some chance of getting employment and that circumstances generally would be better. She had no money and was on income support. Her mortgage payments were met by the state in the form of housing benefit. If she moved, her housing benefit would go towards her rent in Salisbury.

Her affidavit made it plain that at no point had she been financially irresponsible. At the time of the purchase of the property in 1988 she had been in an apparently stable relationship and it was her partner who left her with very small savings.

If she sold the property, on current figures, she would be left with the bank some £12,000 with no reasonable prospect of being able to pay it off. If she stayed in the property the amount owing would probably stay at about the same amount providing housing benefit continued to be paid to cover the mortgage repayments.

The bank, who believed that the value of the property would increase in line with general trends, wanted her to stay there for such time as it took for property prices to reach the difference between the proposed sale price and the £12,000 shortfall.

The plaintiff wanted to go now and intended to do so. If she did the shortfall would increase and continue to increase, whether the house was sold or not and whether by the bank or by her.

The bank's position, which was a fairly standard one, was that they would consent to the sale provided they got the proceeds and credible arrangements were made to repay the shortfall within two years. The plaintiff had not got the funds to meet either condition.

Section 91(2) of the Law of Property Act 1925 gave the court power to order the sale of mortgaged property.

The leading authority was *Polk v Mortgage Services Funding plc* [1993] Ch 330 in which Sir Donald Nicholls, Vice-Chancellor, with whom the other members of the Court of Appeal agreed, had said that the section gave the court a wide, unfettered discretion which had to be exercised judicially but that "the court should decline to exercise the power if the consequence would be manifest unfairness".

Sir Michael Kerr had said in that case that the court would

necessarily have to give "preference to the commercial interests of one [party] over the other", but his Lordship said that that did not mean that only money counted.

The court's discretion was not limited to considering purely financial matters. It could take into account social matters and could look at all the reasons given for wanting a sale.

The bank argued that only extreme cases of social need would be enough to outweigh the bank's interest and that the plaintiff's expressed intention of moving to better her social circumstances was a kind of blackmail.

His Lordship said that was an unfair way of describing what she wanted to do, which was to exercise, perfectly legitimately, her undoubted right to live where she wanted. So in a sense it was advantageous that the reason the bank was content with the current position was that the state happened to be paying her mortgage repayments.

She had shown perfectly good reasons why she should want to move and it was not suggested otherwise than that she had, over the years, behaved thoroughly responsibly financially so far as she could. It could not be just in effect to require her to stay where she was.

Solicitors: Davies Brown, Mr Keith Ford, Gloucester.

In *re Mid East Trading Ltd* Before Mr Justice Evans-Lombe Judgment April 15

A stranger to a liquidation has no locus standi to apply to rescind a winding-up order under rule 7.47 of the Insolvency Rules (SI 1986 No 1925) since it did not alter the pre-1986 law restricting such applications to a creditor, a contributory, or the company jointly with a creditor or contributory.

Mr Justice Evans-Lombe so held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division when dismissing an application by the second respondent, Lehman Brothers Inc, ("LBI") against the joint liquidators, Mr Jonathan Phillips and Mr Paul Evans, the Official Receiver and a Mr Marwan Hakim, to rescind a winding-up order made against Mid East Trading Ltd, a company incorporated in the Lebanon.

His Lordship granted an application by the joint liquidators against four respondents: Lehman Brothers Holdings plc, LBI, Lehman Brothers International (Europe) and Lehman Brothers Ltd, for the production of documents under section 236 of the Insolvency Act 1986.

Mr Michael Crystal, QC and Mr Robin Dickson for the liquidators; Miss Susan Prever for the petitioning creditor; Mr Michael Brindle, QC, for the respondents.

MR JUSTICE EVANS-LOMBE said the liquidators' application arose from business transactions between Mid East Trading Ltd and certain of its associated companies and the respondents.

Mid East was owned and controlled by a Mr Danouk who, in the late 1980s through two other Lebanese companies, IFCO and Sigmas, carried on the business of investment adviser and manager.

The business involved the introduction of investors to financial institutions through which those investors' funds were to be invested, the resulting commissions being shared between the institutions and Mr Danouk's companies.

Initially, Mr Danouk dealt through LBI's London office until 1992 when the accounts were transferred to Bear Stearns, a similar financial institution in New York.

In 1995 Mr Danouk was arrested in the Lebanon and Mid East was placed in liquidation by a Lebanese court on June 1. In September Mr Hakim, a creditor, presented a petition in the Chancery Division to wind up Mid East as an unregistered company under section 22 of the 1986 Act. On November 8 a winding-up order was made against Mid East by Mr Registrar Buckley. On December 11 the joint liquidators were appointed.

It was convenient to deal first with LBI's application to rescind

the winding-up order under rule 7.47(1) of the 1986 Rules which provided: "Every court having jurisdiction under the Act to wind up companies may review, rescind or vary any order made by it in exercise of that jurisdiction."

LBI's case was that Mid East had at the time the order was made, and subsequently, insufficient connection with the court's jurisdiction to justify the making of an order against a foreign registered company. It submitted that searches revealed that Mid East had no assets within the jurisdiction for a winding-up in England to administer, the usual test of sufficient connection.

The liquidators asserted, inter alia, that LBI, being a stranger to the liquidation, had no locus standi to apply to rescind the winding-up order and that the winding-up order was rightly made.

Dealing with locus standi, his Lordship accepted the liquidators' submission that the only parties able to appear on a winding-up petition would be the petitioning creditor and other creditors, contributories and the company.

In addition, the Official Receiver or any liquidator could properly appear in proceedings to make a petition or consequent on the making of the winding-up order: see *in re Bradford Navigation Co Ltd* (1987) Law Rep 5 Ch App 600.

Prior to rule 7.47 coming into force, a winding-up order could only be rescinded if application was made before the order was drawn up. Practice Note (Winding Up Order: Rescission) (No 2) (1971) 1 WLR 757 confined those able to rescind a winding-up order to a creditor, a contributory or the company jointly with the creditor or contributory.

There had been no practice direction since the coming into force of rule 7.47 and that rule itself did not define those who might apply under it to rescind a winding-up order. It had been generally assumed that the new rule did not alter the pre-1986 law as to who might apply to rescind a winding-up order: see *Falsbury's Law of England* (volume 73) (1996) paragraph 2249 and *The Supreme Court Practice* 1997 (volume 2 p184 paragraph 841).

A power to rescind having now been imported into companies winding up it seemed to be legitimate to look to the rules applicable to applications to stay winding-up proceedings as a guide as to who might apply to rescind a winding-up order.

Section 147 of the Insolvency Act 1986 restricted those who might apply for a stay of winding-up proceedings to the liquidator, the Official Receiver, or any creditor or contributory.

His Lordship having heard LBI's submissions that it might be properly joined to the bankruptcy

proceedings in order to apply to rescind the winding-up order under the provisions of Order 15, rule 62(b)(ii) of the Rules of the Supreme Court said that even if Order 15, rule 6 applied that argument was misconceived.

The relevant proceedings, in which Order 15, rule 62(b)(ii) might have been capable of applying, were the proceedings on the petition to wind up. In those proceedings the only relief sought was a winding-up order against the company. Until a winding-up order was made, there could be no question of the exercise of the court's powers under section 236. It followed that no question or issue could possibly arise as between a potential respondent to an application under section 236 and any party to the petition to wind up the company.

For all the above reasons LBI had no locus standi to apply to the court to rescind the making of the winding-up order.

LBI suggested that there was a lacuna in the law because a substantial injustice might occur where the company, its contributories and creditors, in effect, conspired to produce winding-up proceedings in order to make illegitimate use of the powers conferred on the liquidator and in particular to seek an order under section 236 if the party affected by the use of the powers had no locus standi to challenge the winding-up order.

His Lordship did not accept that argument. By a series of authorities concluding with the decision in *British and Commonwealth Holdings plc v Spicer and Oppenheim* [1993] AC 426 the Companies Court had guidance for the exercise of the admittedly draconian power under section 236 and in particular for the protection of respondents to such applications from injustice.

In view of the authority of *in re Arthur Avenue Association for British, Foreign and Colonial*

Ships [1975] 10 Ch App 542 his Lordship decided that it was not necessary for him to go on to consider whether LBI had demonstrated that the winding-up order was wrongly made.

On the section 236 application, in his Lordship's judgment the liquidators had made out a prima facie case. Notwithstanding LBI's evidence that the vast majority of the relevant documents were situated in New York, it was not suggested that to order their production would be physically oppressive on the respondents. His Lordship did not consider that LBI's submission that the winding-up order, should be made in New York, had any weight in the balancing process: see *in re British and Commonwealth Holdings plc v Spicer and Oppenheim* [1993] AC 426, 439.

LBI also submitted that an order under section 236 requiring it to disclose documents situated in the United States constituted an invasion of the jurisdiction of the courts of that country and should not be embarked upon save in the most exceptional circumstances: see *MacKinnon v Donaldson, Lybels and Jenrette Corporation* [1986] 1 Ch 482.

While that principle must be applicable to section 236 proceedings, his Lordship considered he was entitled to proceed on the basis that by making an order under section 236 the court would not be "demanding obedience to its sovereign authority by foreigners in respect of their conduct outside its jurisdiction": see *MacKinnon* (at p493).

His conclusion, in principle, therefore was that the liquidators were entitled subject to certain detailed restrictions set out in his judgment to an order under section 236 for the production of documents which they sought.

Solicitors: Lovell White Purnell, Denton Hall, Freshfields.

Stranger cannot seek rescission

Dock identification

Barnes v Director of Public Prosecutions
Justices had a discretion to allow the prosecution to identify a defendant in court where there had been no previous identification.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice McCowan and Mr Justice Popplewell) so held on April 24, when dismissing an appeal by John William Barnes by way of case stated from his conviction by Durham City Justices on October 22, 1996, of failing to supply a specimen of urine for analysis, contrary to section 71(a) of the Road Traffic Act 1988.

LORD JUSTICE MCCOWAN said that at trial the only evidence that the defendant was the man who had failed to provide a specimen was in the form of a dock identification by a police officer.

It had been submitted for the defendant that it was not open to the prosecution to rely on a dock identification if there had not been an identity parade.

His Lordship referred to a passage on crown court dock identification in *Archbold, Criminal Pleading, Evidence and Practice* (1997) 14-86 which stated: "It is now difficult to conceive of circumstances in which a trial judge would permit ... a dock

identification. ... Nevertheless, in the magistrates' court it had long been customary for a witness to identify a defendant in court. If there had to be an identity parade in every case of disputed identity, the whole process of justice in a magistrates' court would be severely impaired. It was not unfair on the facts to identify the defendant in that way."

His Lordship noted with approval that the court judge Clark had correctly and promptly permitted the presence of the friend to assist the father.

Friend in chambers

In re H (a Minor) (Chambers proceedings: McKenzie)
Even if a hearing was in chambers, because it concerned a child, a friend appearing in person was not to be deprived of the presence and proper assistance of a friend.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Ward) so stated on April 17, when refusing applications by a father to supply a specimen of urine for analysis, contrary to section 71(a) of the Road Traffic Act 1988.

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Knifing tariff

Regina v Pitt
Courts took the view, quite properly, that offences committed with knives had to be dealt with severely and the tariff suggested in *R v Latham* (The Times November 15, 1996) of 10 to 12 years imprisonment on a contested case undoubtedly reflected the attitude of society and the courts.

That case concerned carrying a knife as a weapon in a public place. However, in a different situation, where death was caused by a man who was at home at night looking after his wife and children and armed himself prior to going out of his house to confront his violent drunk and shouting outside the house, the right sentence on conviction of manslaughter on the ground of provocation was one of seven years.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division (Lord Justice McCowan, Mr Justice Ognall and Mr Justice Sedley) so held on April 29 when allowing an appeal by Anthony John Pitt and substituting a sentence of seven years for the sentence of eight years imposed on December 12, 1996 at Bristol Crown Court (Mr Justice Cresswell) on conviction of manslaughter.

LORD JUSTICE MCCOWAN said that it had been submitted that the sentencing judge had been over-influenced by the judgment in *Latham*.

Approaching the case, influenced by *Latham* but without regarding themselves bound by the tariff referred to there, in all the circumstances their Lordships considered the right sentence to be one of seven years.

Passport proof

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Obi
The production of a genuine passport which described as a British citizen a person who, in whatever name, was undoubtedly the person seeking to enter the UK, discharged the burden of proof of British citizenship established by section 3(8) of the Immigration Act 1971 by a means specified as sufficient in section 3(9).

Mr Justice Sedley so held in the Queen's Bench Division on April 18 allowing an application for judicial review by Chukwudi Iroegbun Ezenwa Obi of the decision of the passport agency in Liverpool to serve him with a notice dated October 17, 1995 designating him an illegal entrant.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the passport agency dispute was that the applicant was not a British citizen, as named in his passport. The secretary of state argued that once identity was verified, it was up to the entrant to prove a further fact, namely that he was the person named in the passport.

His Lordship held that in the circumstances no such further burden rested upon the entrant. Once the passport had been duly issued a passport on the material presented to it, that passport furnished unqualified, although not irrefutable evidence for the purposes of entry into the UK under section 3(8) and (9) of the 1971 Act.

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LAW

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An alternative to libel

Gary Slapper
on the ancient
legal course
taken by a
pop singer

When Kirk Brandon, a pop singer, sued the singer Boy George for malicious falsehood and libel in the High Court last week — in the event, unsuccessfully — many people were left wondering how, if at all, this arcane legal action is different from that of defamation.

The action has been used in several prominent cases, including last year's battle between Rupert Allason and Alastair Campbell, Tony Blair's press secretary.

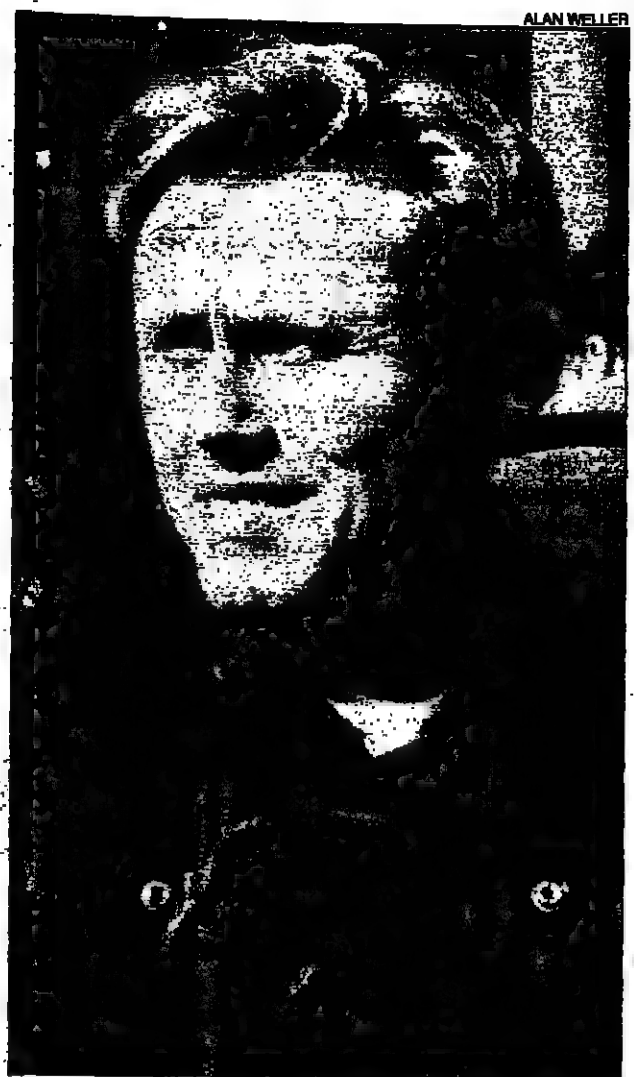
In that case the former MP sued Mr Campbell, who was political editor of the *Daily Mirror* at the relevant time in 1992, another journalist and *Mirror* Group Newspapers. Representing himself, Mr Allason claimed that Mr Campbell had conducted a campaign of spite against him. The alleged malicious falsehood came from *Mirror* journalists who, it was claimed, had fabricated a story that 50 MPs had challenged Mr Allason to hand over to Maxwell pensioners an estimated £250,000 he had won in libel damages from the newspaper.

The ancient action is in essence a claim that an untrue statement was made by the defendant with malice, and that, as a result the plaintiff suffered financial loss. In 1639, the case of *Dickens v Fenne*, concerned what was described as 'naughty beer'. The plaintiff, a brewer, sued Mr Fenne who had said, in front of other customers, that if he gave his mate a peck of malt 'she should piss as good beer as Dickens doth brew'. The action failed because the brewer did not prove any loss following from the insult.

Since legislation in 1952, it is not necessary to prove actual damage in instances in which the falsehood is published or put on a record and the words are likely to cause financial loss. But not all published falsehoods are seen by the courts in this way. In that case, loss has to be proved.

Mr Allason lost his claim on this point. The trial judge ended Mr Allason's run of 22 court victories when he ruled that though he accepted that the *Mirror* story was false and had been published by MGN with malice, there was no evidence of financial damage resulting from the publication, and that the mistruth had later been corrected with an apology.

The subject matter of these actions is quite varied. One



Kirk Brandon, left, unsuccessfully sued the singer Boy George, right, for malicious falsehood last week



early case flowed from a false claim that the plaintiff was married, which resulted in her losing a real proposal. In other cases the falsehoods have included statements that a business person has ceased to trade, or that his products are defective. Stephanie Grappelli, the jazz violinist, once took an action for malicious falsehood against his former agents after they had cancelled a series of concerts which they had set up 'without his knowledge'. To get themselves out of the consequences, the agents falsely said that Mr Grappelli was seriously ill and it would be surprising if he ever toured again.

This was seen as likely to cause him economic loss, and the case was settled out of court. In January 1990, the actor Gordon Kaye was badly injured in a storm when a piece of wood smashed through his car window. While he was critically ill in hospital without the facilities to make any reasoned decision, and with a notice on his door forbidding unauthorised entry, a photographer and a journalist from the *Sunday Sport* gained entry to his room. The Court of Appeal held

Damages awarded are usually lower

that the resultant newspaper story (which was obtained in draft form), billed as an 'exclusive', was a malicious falsehood. It implied that Mr Kaye had sold his story to a paper with a lurid interest in pornography. The court said that if the paper were to publish as it originally proposed then, when he recovered, Mr Kaye's right to sell his story to a paper of his choice and at a proper market value would be worth much less to him.

Legal aid is not available for libel actions but it is for malicious falsehood, and the unusual action has enjoyed a little revival since a case in 1993 in which the Court of Appeal ruled that a woman should not be prevented from bringing such an action just because it would more appropriately have been brought as a libel action.

The newspaper *Today* had published an article by its chief crime correspondent suggesting that Linda Joyce, one of Princess Anne's maids, had stolen her royal employer's private letters and handed them to a national newspaper. The article implied that she had been dismissed as a consequence of this breach of trust. Miss Joyce could not afford to

bring an action without legal aid, but because this is not given to libel plaintiffs, she opted to sue for malicious falsehood. The Court of Appeal refused to strike out her choice of suit as an abuse of process. Sir Donald Nicholls, the then Vice-Chancellor, said: 'English law has marked out courses of action on which plaintiffs may rely. Many courses of action overlap... where more than one course of action is available to him, a plaintiff may choose which one he will pursue.'

There are some cases that are genuinely better brought as malicious falsehoods than as any other type of action. These include situations where a person is injured by a statement but where his reputation does not suffer; for example, a claim that the seller of land is not the real legal owner. But many of today's instances are of what a judge once described as a case of defamation 'being forced into the ill-fitting garb of an action for malicious falsehood'.

Often this makes things unnecessarily difficult for a plaintiff. Unlike defamation cases, these trials are not generally heard with juries, and the damages awarded are usually lower than those in defamation actions. Damages will generally be quickly swallowed up by the Legal Aid Board's charge over

answer machine, leaving the phones to ring and ring.

● Cameron Markby Hewitt and McKenna & Co sealed the knot on their merger as the country went to the polls last Thursday. Now called Cameron McKenna, the firm claims to be Europe's eighth-largest. To celebrate, it has opened a new office, appropriately in the new Labour era, in Gdansk, the Polish city that gave birth to Solidarity.

Power struggle

WITH a Bill of Rights on the political agenda, Sweet & Maxwell's special issue of *European Human Rights Law Review* is timely. It has contributions from leading human rights lawyers, including Lord Lester of Herne Hill, QC, Connor Gearty, professor at King's College London, and John Wadham, the director of Liberty.

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SCRIVENOR

STUART & FRANCIS

Popcorn with court cases: delicious

Lawyers who have had a hard day in court like to relax by reading a book, watching a television programme, or going to see a film, so long as it involves other lawyers having a hard day in court. There is no shortage of current material: John Grisham's excellent new novel *The Partner* (Century, £16.99); the compelling second series of Steve Bochco's legal drama *Murder One* (BBC2 on Tuesday evenings, though sadly the character of Ted Hoffman has not survived from the first series); and Edward Norton's fine performance as lawyer Alan Apatow in Mike Forman's *The People v Larry Flynt* (Certificate 18).

Isaacman represented Flynt, publisher of the pornographic magazine *Hustler*, in many cases, including his 1977 Cincinnati trial for obscenity when he was convicted and imprisoned, a decision later overturned on appeal, his imprisonment for contempt in California and his Supreme Court victory in 1988 against the preacher the Rev Jerry Falwell.

Hustler had published a parody of an alcohol advertisement in which Mr Falwell was presented as talking about his 'first time', suggesting that it involved a drunken, incestuous rendezvous with his own mother in an outhouse. A jury awarded Mr Falwell \$200,000 for intentional infliction of emotional distress, even though it dismissed a libel claim because no reasonable person could believe that the parody was describing actual events.

For a unanimous Supreme Court, Chief Justice Rehnquist explained that parody plays 'an important role in public and political debate'. The court concluded that the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, which protects freedom of expression, prohibited the award of damages by reference to the subjective standard of whether a publication is 'outrageous', where the article contained nothing which would be understood as a statement of fact. As Flynt himself observed, the importance of all this is that 'if the First Amendment will protect a scumbag like me, then it will protect all of you. Because I'm the worst'.

Lawyers who may occasionally act for difficult clients will enjoy the performance of Edward Norton, as Isaacman, battling to control and represent an impossible client (played by Woody Harrison), who ignores all sensible advice, attends court wearing a diaper in the colours of the American flag, gives outrageous answers in evidence to aggravate his opponent and throws fruit at the judge.

In his foreword to *Reel Justice: The*

Courtroom Goes to the Movies, by Paul Bergman and Michael Asimow (Andrews and McMeel, Kansas City, \$14.95), Judge Alex Kozinski of the United States Court of Appeals notes that trials are a frequent subject for the cinema because of the conflict and drama which they display on subjects of perennial fascination such as sex and violence. Popcorn has always mixed well with a little cross-examination.

Bergman and Asimow are law professors at the University of California at Los Angeles. In *Reel Justice*, they grade, and provide entertaining and informative comment on, a large number of trial movies, and films that include trial scenes, from *Adam's Rib* (1949), with Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn as husband and wife who are opposing lawyers) to *Philadelphia* (1993, with Tom Hanks as a lawyer stricken with AIDS).

Bergman and Asimow recognise the undoubted classics of legal cinema: Henry Fonda in *Sidney Lumet's Twelve Angry Men* (1957), Charles Laughton in Billy Wilder's *Witness for the Prosecution* (1957), James Stewart in Otto Preminger's *Anatomy of a Murder* (1959), Spencer Tracy in Stanley Kramer's *Inherit the Wind* (1960) and *Judgment at Nuremberg* (1961), and Gregory Peck in Alan Pakula's *To Kill a Mockingbird* (1963).

Their judgment is occasionally perverse. Is *My Cousin Vinny* (1992), truly one of the best legal films ever, to be placed in the same category as those mentioned above? Is Jim Sheridan's *In the Name of the Father* (1993), with all of its cross legal errors in presenting the case of the Guildford Four, to be put in the same category as John Ford's *Young Mr Lincoln* (1939) or Alfred Hitchcock's *The Wrong Man* (1957)?

The attempt by Bergman and Asimow to identify the legal significance of each film is sometimes strained, as in their 'legal analysis' of Woody Allen's *Bananas* (1971). *Reel Justice* is not comprehensive: *The Firm* (1993) and *First Monday in October* (1981) deserve a mention. And the authors miss one of the most entertaining trials in cinema history, at the beginning of *The Pure Hell of St Trinian's* (1960), when all of the pupils at the girls' school are on trial at the Old Bailey for arson.

But, despite its defects, lawyers will find *Reel Justice* a useful guide to films they have seen, those they ought to see and some they should avoid. If *The People v Larry Flynt* is not quite in the highest class, it deserves an honourable mention in the next edition.

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



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LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

11 KING'S BENCH WALK
CHAMBERS

Their colleagues at 11 King's Bench Walk Chambers congratulate Tony Blair on becoming Prime Minister and Lord Irvine of Lairg QC on becoming Lord Chancellor.

Upon Lord Irvine ceasing to be Head of Chambers, Eldred Tabachnik QC and James Goudie QC become Joint Heads. While Eldred Tabachnik retains obligations as the President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, James Goudie will be responsible for the administration of Chambers.

Chambers also congratulate Alan Wilkie QC on his recent appointment as a Circuit Judge, and Alistair McGregor and Christopher Jeans on becoming Queen's Counsel.

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Lord Irvine takes office

LORD 'Derry' Irvine of Lairg, QC, friend and mentor to Tony Blair, will be sworn in tomorrow as Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain — to give him his full title — at the law courts in The Strand.

In a ceremony that underlines his role as head of the judiciary, as well as government Minister, he will be flanked by the Lord Chief Justice and other heads of division, and then the Clerk of the Crown (Sir Tom Legg, permanent secretary to the Lord Chancellor's Department) will administer the oaths. The Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms and the Purse Bearer are also present. Lord Irvine, 57, will play a key role in constitutional reform. He has also promised a review of legal aid and civil justice.

Holding the fort
PITY the poor lawyers at Allen & Overy's Brussels office last Thursday. While support staff took advantage of an official Belgian holiday to enjoy the

sun, the lawyers had to work a full day. They were not alone. Other fully operational offices included those of Ashurst Morris Crisp and Bird & Bird. Denton Hall and Goudens get the prize for being the most

generous and efficient, with answer machines proclaiming the holiday. But at Clifford Chance and Slaughter & May the lawyers must have been in such a hurry to get away that they forgot to turn on the an-

swer machine, leaving the phones to ring and ring.

● Cameron Markby Hewitt and McKenna & Co sealed the knot on their merger as the country went to the polls last Thursday. Now called Cameron McKenna, the firm claims to be Europe's eighth-largest. To celebrate, it has opened a new office, appropriately in the new Labour era, in Gdansk, the Polish city that gave birth to Solidarity.

Power struggle

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SCRIVENOR

STUART & FRANCIS

Time for that Bill of Rights

TWO of the top law and order issues under the new Labour Government — a Bill of Rights and sentencing policy — are also on the agenda of the tenth anniversary conference in London, from July 27 to August 1, of the Society for the Reform of Criminal Law.

The conference, which will attract lawyers from throughout the world, is being organised by Michael Hill, QC, a leading criminal silk. Full details next week.



Michael Hill, QC, organiser

QUEEN'S COUNSEL

IN MY SUBMISSION, MADAM SPEAKER... ER... YOUR HONOUR

I'D LIKE MY FEE IN CASH IN A BROWN ENVELOPE, PLEASE

SURELY EUROPEAN LAW IS CLEAR ON THIS POINT, COUNSELLOR?

INDEED, MY LORD, CLEARLY A CYNICAL ATTEMPT TO UNDERMINE BRITISH SOVEREIGNTY

I WONDER WHAT ALL THOSE EX-TORH MPs WILL DO FOR A LIVING NOW?

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In law, as in business, the days of insular attitudes are over, says Edward Fennell

Successful City firms embrace global era

Last Thursday's events were marked in the legal world by a pair of coincidences which underscored the sense we were truly leaving one era and entering another.

As voters went to the polling stations, the partners of Clifford Chance, led by Geoffrey Howe and Keith Clark, were celebrating the tenth anniversary of that landmark event, the merger of Coward Chance and Clifford-Turner.

Meanwhile, just 50 yards down the road the partners of the newly merged Cameron McKenna were enjoying their first day as an integrated unit. The merger had created a new Top Ten firm whose ambitions are clearly set on bursting into the "magic circle" led by Clifford Chance, the benchmark against which all others must be measured.

No firm embodies better what has happened to the practice of business law under the Thatcher and Major administrations than Clifford Chance. Its dramatic progress towards becoming one of the contenders for the world title stems from the way it read the trends in the Conservative boom days of the late 1980s. Its senior partners saw the globalisation of business and recognised that lawyers had to match that trend. And when, in the midst of the recession in the early 1990s, other firms cut back on

overseas investment, it continued to expand — and now it is reaping the benefits by being streets ahead of anyone else.

The Thatcher/Major business revolution made lawyers become business people in their own right. But the big City lawyers, perhaps more than anyone else, benefited directly and immeasurably from the Tories' love affair with privatisation. They were the technicians who made privatisation work and are now starting to do the same with the private finance initiative. Not only did this bring in massive amounts of work at

'We cannot focus on the domestic market alone'

the time but it also gave them the credentials to do the same elsewhere, as the British experience was imitated worldwide.

And it is the international scope of their work which will enable Clifford Chance and its new rivals to glide smoothly into the new era. While the political scene has been riven by the debate over Europe, the top law firms have seen that the days of insular attitudes are gone for good. Clifford Chance now has 38 per cent of its people overseas and about half of its work is international. It sees itself irreversibly as a global firm.

This is echoed by rivals such as Freshfields. As Ian Terry, the firm's managing partner commented, last week: "The most profound change in the last 20 years has been the



Keith Clark, left, and Geoffrey Howe: leading Clifford Chance into its second decade

dynamic growth in the international market for legal services. If your aspiration, like ours, is to be one of the best, you have to commit to years of investment and to becoming truly multicultural."

Much the same is said by Eversheds, which is now the UK's leading "national" firm but also sees that the future for the best firms must lie far beyond the UK. Looking back on the last 18 years, Eversheds chairman Keith James said last week: "The general trend towards globalisation in every

area of business — including the law — means that we cannot focus on the domestic market alone. We believe our clients need to have their interests represented throughout Europe and we are implementing strategies to deal with this."

That is why, for City lawyers, as much as for anyone else, the flavour of the new epoch is likely to depend on the outcome of the economic and monetary union project and its impact on London as a financial centre. By becoming a glo-

bal firm, Clifford Chance will be able to withstand the turbulence ahead better than most. For Cameron McKenna, however, the challenge remains. If its merger is to be considered a success ten years hence, somehow it must raise its game and be a contender along the lines of Clifford Chance, Freshfields, Linklaters & Paines and Allen & Overy.

So who will blossom under Blair? The answer is: those firms for which the matter of who occupies No 10 is no longer so important.

Justices may face erosion of powers

Many magistrates are apprehensive about likely changes to their role, writes Paula Davies

With a new Government elected, magistrates will be bracing themselves for more change. Change is likely in the law and in their role. Since 1989 legislation has poured out in Act after Act, requiring justices to follow a steep learning curve, which is particularly onerous on those who give their time and effort for no monetary reward. Yet they have embraced extra training with enthusiasm: it is only recently that an air of demoralisation has appeared. Rightly or wrongly, many of them feel they are being sidelined.

They are accused of being too slow, yet in my experience it is not so much the fault of the justices as in the paper-driven system forced on us by the so-called paperless society of the computer. It ought to work more efficiently but it does not, and cases are said to take an average of 132 days to get through compared with 48 days ten years ago. Then there is the attitude of some court users. Recently our bench discovered that witnesses had been "de-warned" on the assumption that we would grant an adjournment.

"It is," the representative of the Crown Prosecution Service said, "only the first trial date."

We insisted that the case go ahead, principally because of the age of the defendants — 13 and 14 respectively — and because the next trial date could not be fixed for another three months. After all, it is for the justices alone to decide on an adjournment.

This situation may not last much longer. Recently, the Justices' Clerks Society has made suggestions about taking on what it claims are only administrative jobs designed to speed up justice. Yet if clerks can decide on such matters as adjournments, bail matters, fixing trial dates and discontinuing cases, they will be taking on roles previously held by the justices.

This problem of judicial and administrative boundaries is now being examined by a working party in the Lord Chancellor's Department. Nonetheless, lay magistrates are starting to believe that this is the thin end of the wedge and that their powers are likely to be eroded.

Should Jack Straw have his way in relation to youth courts, we are likely to see the stipendiaries hear cases and the justices who are left decide on the sentence. Given that those who hear a case should ideally be those who judge it, this seems a retrograde step as much for the accused as for the youth court justices. "If anything," one stipendiary said, "it should be the other way round."

Indeed, in the higher courts it is the jury that decides guilt or innocence on the facts and the judge who advises on the law and passes sentence if required. Only stipendiaries, when they are sitting alone, can be the equivalent of

both judge and jury. Mr Straw, however, seems more interested in giving the professionals an inquisitorial role like that of an examining magistrate.

If that should become law then youth justices can kiss their role goodbye. It would be better surely to have a mixed bench — already operating in some youth and family courts — where justices sit either side of the stipendiary. This idea was put forward by a Royal Commission as long ago as 1948, when the members recommended a mixed bench which would combine the expertise of the professional with the public appeal of the lay justice.

This appeal seems to me to lie in the fact that lay justices usually sit in a local area which they know well and in courts where the local police station and probation offices are near by. Yet though this may still be true in the country, the proposed closure of courts in inner London could mean the demise of truly local justice.

Last month a strategic plan for the inner London courts was published. Designed to bring the inner London area into line with the rest of the country, it will lead — subject to statutory consultation — to the dissolution of the West Central Division and the closure of more courts. So what, you might say. Crime takes place all over London and people can travel to the larger courts expected to take over the work. So far as justices are concerned this is true, but what about the court users, such as the accused and their families? Already some of them cannot afford the fares. A local solicitor in Islington warns that adjournments are likely to increase in the youth courts because parents cannot get to court "until the Giro comes".

The strategic plan is saving money. The government plan is expected to reduce year on year and there are falling levels of work in the adult courts. Yet if the 17-year-olds go back to the adult courts, as seems likely, the work will undoubtedly increase.

The cost of magistrates' courts in London is said to be twice that of those outside the capital but that should hardly be surprising. It is reckoned that the cost per case in inner London in 1995 was £41.17 as against £24.10 in the rest of the country.

Yet it has been obvious for years — and London weighting shows it — that any capital city is going to be more expensive in every way. Four courts were closed in 1996 and cases moved to the new West London court. Three more are due to close by the year 2000. But no one knows what will happen to the crime rate in the next three years.

● The author is an inner London magistrate.

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CORPORATE

Sept 1997 NQ to 3 Years Qualified to £58,000
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Public limited company with its head office based in the heart of the City is seeking a commercial lawyer to act as its in-house legal adviser/company secretary. The role will involve substantial responsibility, advising on a wide range of both legal and commercial issues affecting the company as well as company secretarial matters. No company secretarial experience is required, however candidates should have good company/commercial experience gained either from private practice or in-house. Ref: T00152.J

PROJECT FINANCE

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Leading US practice, widely regarded as having one of the main Project Finance teams in the City, requires a senior assistant to advise sponsors, investors, lenders, suppliers and other participants in large scale projects including transportation, power, petrochemical, pipelines, oil and gas and mining. The firm will discuss partnership in the short term and a premium remuneration package is on offer. Ref: T00626.C

PLANNING

3 to 6 Years Qualified to £63,000
This is a department within a City practice which has seen a substantial increase in high calibre instructions for the last four months and, consequently, requires a further planning specialist to concentrate on a wide range of transactions for local planning authority clients. Genuine partnership prospects and a high level of autonomy. Ref: T00178.G

BANKING

2 to 4 Years Qualified £In-house
A major UK Bank is looking to recruit a lawyer to handle a broad range of activities. This will include drafting and negotiating banking agreements, working on special projects and initiatives, dealing with sophisticated financial products in the capital markets and giving legal support to client teams. Candidates must have a general banking background combined with some capital markets experience. This role would suit someone who works well independently and is ready to take on responsibility at a junior level. Ideally candidates will be from one of the known banking firms or an in-house role at a major bank. Ref: T10503.E

Please contact Andrea Melnick, Dominique W Pengelly or Alison Barrett (all qualified lawyers) on 0171 417 1400 or write to them at the London office for more information in complete confidence. Evenings/Weekends 0171 431 5860. Confidential Fax 0171 417 1444. Email: andream@garfieldrobbins.co.uk

CURRENT CONTRACTS

EMERGING MARKETS

London based investment bank seeks a solicitor/barrister with a minimum of 3 years' experience in emerging markets to join the legal team for a 3-6 month contract. Experience required must include funded loans, securities and repos. Immediate start. Ref: 39709

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Leading engineering/construction company based in the Home Counties seeks a solicitor/barrister with 3+ years' experience to assist senior solicitor in department. Experience of industrial tribunal advocacy would be advantageous and contract could become permanent. Ref: 39545

COMMERCIAL CONTRACTS

Legal Department of this public sector group wishes to recruit a solicitor for a 6 month contract to start immediately. Experience of drafting contracts, in particular, IT contracts, essential. Ref: 28645

PLANNING

Progressive City firm needs 2-6 year qualified solicitor to assist busy department. Candidates should have strong academics as well as recent experience in a City firm environment. Immediate start. Ref: 39814

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

Small, but well regarded City firm, requires a 2-8 year qualified solicitor with a broad base of experience including landlord and tenant matters. Contract is for about 3 months whilst they pursue a permanent search. Ref: 39493

PROFESSIONAL NEGLIGENCE

Large legal department of finance house based in the Midlands needs a 4-8 year qualified solicitor/barrister. Contract is for 3-6 months and requires specialist expertise in professional negligence against solicitors and valuers. Ref: 39992

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Major investment company situated in Southern Home Counties needs 5+ years' qualified solicitor/barrister with in-depth knowledge of financial services industry. Applicants will be advising on unit trusts, investment trusts, compliance and a range of commercial agreements. Ref: 39934

NON FEE-EARNING

Banking lawyer sought by the London office of a leading American law firm to assist with updating precedents and in particular with the drafting of finance procedures. Position could be part or full-time. Ref: 39613

CAPITAL MARKETS

Investment house seeks a solicitor/barrister with around 2 years' experience with a heavy workload. Candidates should ideally have experience of master agreements, ISDA documentation and repos. Ref: 37953

CRIMINAL LITIGATION

1/2 solicitors/barristers sought by national commercial law firm in their London office. Immediate start, to assist with 2 major cases. Candidates must have had at least 2 years' relevant heavyweight experience for 3-6 month contract, which could become permanent. Ref: 39950

SPL
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For further information please call Emma Anderson or Nicky Rutherford-Jones on 0171-405 6062 (0181-540 2381 or 0171-350 0682 evenings/weekends) or write to us at Special Project Lawyers, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171 831 6394.

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Responsibilities will focus upon fronting major commercial negotiations, which will involve dealing with overseas lawyers on a regular basis and frequent site attendance outside the UK. It's

essential, therefore, that you have considerable experience of handling international sales contracts - and that your previous projects have included licences, joint ventures, collaborations, secrecy agreements, patents, trademarks, copyright and distributorship.

Other areas of expertise should cover purchases, disputes, EC Regulations and Insurance Claims. A definite advantage, too, would be a reasonable understanding of foreign languages, either Spanish, German or Danish.

A solicitor or a barrister, you will have enjoyed at least five years post-qualification experience, preferably in a corporate environment, which has

given you the pragmatism, flexibility and exposure necessary to succeed in resolving complex international issues.

Please send your CV to: Jacqueline Wood, In-House Legal, Grosvenor House, Bennetts Hill, Birmingham B2 5RS. Tel: 0121 643 1895. Mobile: 0378 374593. Fax: 0121 633 0862. E-mail: hwgroup@hwgroup.co.uk

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Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

[illegible]

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Mid	Company	Price	High	Low	PE	Mid	Company	Price	High	Low	PE
71.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	219.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
72.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	220.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
73.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	221.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
74.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	222.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
75.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	223.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
76.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	224.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
77.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	225.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
78.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	226.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
79.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	227.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
80.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	228.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
81.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	229.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
82.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	230.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
83.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	231.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
84.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	232.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
85.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	233.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
86.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	234.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
87.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	235.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
88.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	236.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
89.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	237.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
90.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	238.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
91.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	239.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
92.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	240.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
93.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	241.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
94.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	242.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
95.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	243.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
96.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	244.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
97.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	245.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
98.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	246.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
99.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	247.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
100.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	248.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
101.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	249.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
102.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	250.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
103.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	251.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
104.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	252.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
105.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	253.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
106.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	254.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
107.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	255.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
108.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	256.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
109.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	257.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
110.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	258.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
111.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	259.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
112.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	260.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
113.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	261.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
114.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	262.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
115.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	263.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
116.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	264.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
117.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	265.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
118.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	266.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
119.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	267.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
120.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	268.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
121.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	269.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
122.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	270.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
123.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	271.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
124.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	272.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
125.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	273.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
126.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	274.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
127.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	275.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
128.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	276.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
129.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	277.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
130.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	278.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
131.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	279.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
132.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	280.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
133.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	281.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
134.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	282.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
135.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	283.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
136.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	284.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
137.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	285.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
138.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	286.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
139.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	287.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
140.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	288.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
141.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	289.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
142.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	290.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
143.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	291.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
144.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	292.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
145.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	293.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
146.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	294.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
147.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	295.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
148.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	296.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
149.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	297.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
150.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	298.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
151.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	299.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
152.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	300.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
153.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	301.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
154.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	302.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
155.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	303.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
156.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	304.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
157.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	305.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
158.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	306.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
159.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	307.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
160.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	308.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
161.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	309.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
162.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	310.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
163.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	311.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
164.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	312.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
165.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	313.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
166.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	314.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
167.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	315.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
168.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	316.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
169.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	317.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
170.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	318.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
171.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	319.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
172.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	320.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
173.70	Alcan	45.75	46.00	45.50	22.5	321.00	Imperial Oil	81.75	82.00	81.50	15.5
174											

[illegible]

US in line for cheap phone calls

By OUR CITY STAFF

THE US Federal Communications Commission is near agreement on a plan designed to offer consumers the largest cut in long-distance phone rates ever, its chairman says.

The plan would reduce by \$1.7 billion the fees that long-distance carriers pay local phone companies to use their networks.

AT&T, the biggest long-distance carrier, has promised to pass on all of the savings to all its customers, with rate cuts of 5 per cent to 15 per cent. "That is the key that unlocks the door," said Reed Hundt, FCC chairman.

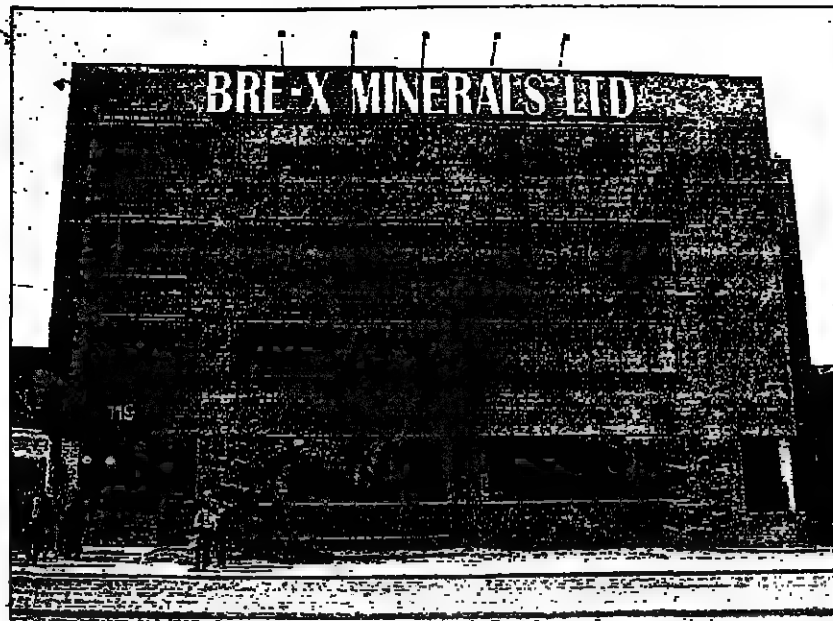
FCC officials must also find an additional \$2 billion to \$3 billion a year to hook up schools, libraries and hospitals to the Internet computer network. The agency is due to vote on the plan next week.

Agency officials said the latest breakthrough came after AT&T agreed to pass to consumers all the savings it receives from a cut of at least \$1.7 billion in the yearly \$23 billion that long-distance companies pay local carriers.

Previous access-rate cuts have been passed on only to business users and residential customers on special calling plans.

Adam Jones follows what proved to be a false trail in the mining industry

Investors bought a gilded picture



Bre-X, based in Calgary, says an independent report found data had been falsified



Beckwith: in dispute with Bre-X

The allegation that thousands of mineral samples were doctored to suggest the existence of an enormous gold deposit in Indonesia is just one twist in an improbable tale that has already seen the death of a geologist in mysterious circumstances. Unsurprisingly, the story has already attracted film makers.

Bre-X Minerals was founded in 1989 by David Walsh, who had previously worked for a stockbroking house. In 1993, he and his wife went bankrupt after amassing credit card debts of US\$43,000. As a last-ditch venture, he raised US\$80,000 for the option to buy 15,000 hectares of land in Busang, a rain forest area on the island of Borneo.

Mr Walsh was convinced that Borneo held easily-recoverable gold deposits in its volcanic rock.

The Busang site belonged to Montague Gold, an Australian company 49 per cent owned by Waverley Mining Finance, based in Edinburgh. It later won an extra US\$6 million from Bre-X, while optimism was still high.

In October 1995, Bre-X announced that Busang could contain more than 30 million ounces of gold. This estimate was revised upwards before Bre-X transferred its listing from Alberta to the Toronto Stock Exchange in April 1996.

The gold expectations grew to 47 million ounces and the stock soared to C\$26.80 (£11.80) in September, from just a couple of dollars a year earlier. By December, the land was said to hold more than 57 million ounces of gold. But Bre-X was pressed by the Indonesians into diluting its holding by taking on a partner and giving the Government a cut, leaving it with just 45 per

cent. It also faced a US\$1.5 billion lawsuit from Jusuf Merukh, an Indonesian who claimed a share of the gold. His company has a strategic alliance with Australia's Golden Valley Mines, run by Warren Beckwith.

By February 1997, Bre-X said there could be as much as 200 million ounces of gold at Busang. Such a haul could have been worth tens of billions of dollars in profit. Then on March 19, Michael de Guzman, a 43-year-old Filipino

and Bre-X's chief geologist at the site, fell to his death from a helicopter flying over the jungle.

Rumours began circulating that de Guzman, who owned shares in Bre-X, had been murdered. The Indonesian au-

thorities suspected suicide, saying he had been diagnosed as suffering from terminal hepatitis B. His family deny this, saying he had passed a medical examination in Singapore. A body, partially eaten by animals, was found several

days later and identified as de Guzman's because of the jeans it was wearing. The autopsy was delayed and the family only received the body two weeks later, fuelling further speculation.

Two days after de Guzman's death, an Indonesian newspaper reported that there was a discrepancy between Bre-X's assessment of the find and that of its new development partner, Freeport McMoran.

Bre-X subsequently admitted that the find may have been overstated. The shares, already traumatised, were suspended.

When trading resumed, the stock lost 80 per cent, or US\$2.1 billion of its market value. Shareholders began filing class actions against the company and its officials, and Indonesia's top mining official was sacked.

To resolve the controversy, ore from Busang was sent to Strathcona Mineral Services for testing. Its damning report was published yesterday and it concluded that the amount of tampering and falsification was "without precedent in the history of mining anywhere in the world".

Insurance against sabotage

By OLIVER AUGUST

AN increase in the number of blackmailers trying to extort cash from companies by poisoning food products has spawned the first comprehensive insurance against sabotage as well as accidental contamination.

A Lloyd's policy, called Total Recall, protects companies against losses associated with food scares. It is offered by the Beazley and Cassidy Davis syndicates.

David Nicholson, of Beazley, said: "Total Recall covers not only the accidental risks which are within the control of the insured and their suppliers, but also deliberate contamination outside the insured's control by extortionists, disgruntled employees, pressure groups and others."

The policy comes too late for an Australian company that had to withdraw its biscuits in February. The withdrawal was forced by an extortionist alleging corruption among New South Wales police. The biscuits stayed off the shelves for 12 days, estimates of the cost between £7.5 million and £20 million.

The upper limit on the Lloyd's policy is £15 million.

The Scottish Provident Institution

The 159th Annual General Meeting of members of the Scottish Provident Institution will be held on Tuesday 27 May 1997 at 12 noon in the Caledonian Hotel, Princes Street, Edinburgh, to consider the Accounts and Balance Sheet and the Reports of the Directors and Auditors, to elect Directors, to determine the remuneration of the Directors and to elect the Auditors.

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from this address.

By order of the Board of Directors.

G Henderson
Secretary

7-11 Melville Street
Edinburgh EH3 7YZ
29 April 1997

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE ROUND

US dollar 1.6180 (-0.0050)
German mark 2.7864 (-0.0013)
Exchange Index 99.7 (Same)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKETS

FT 30 shares 2907.4 (+45.4)
FTSE 100 4455.6 (+85.9)
New York Dow Jones 7071.20 (+332.33)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 18514.75 (+901.89)

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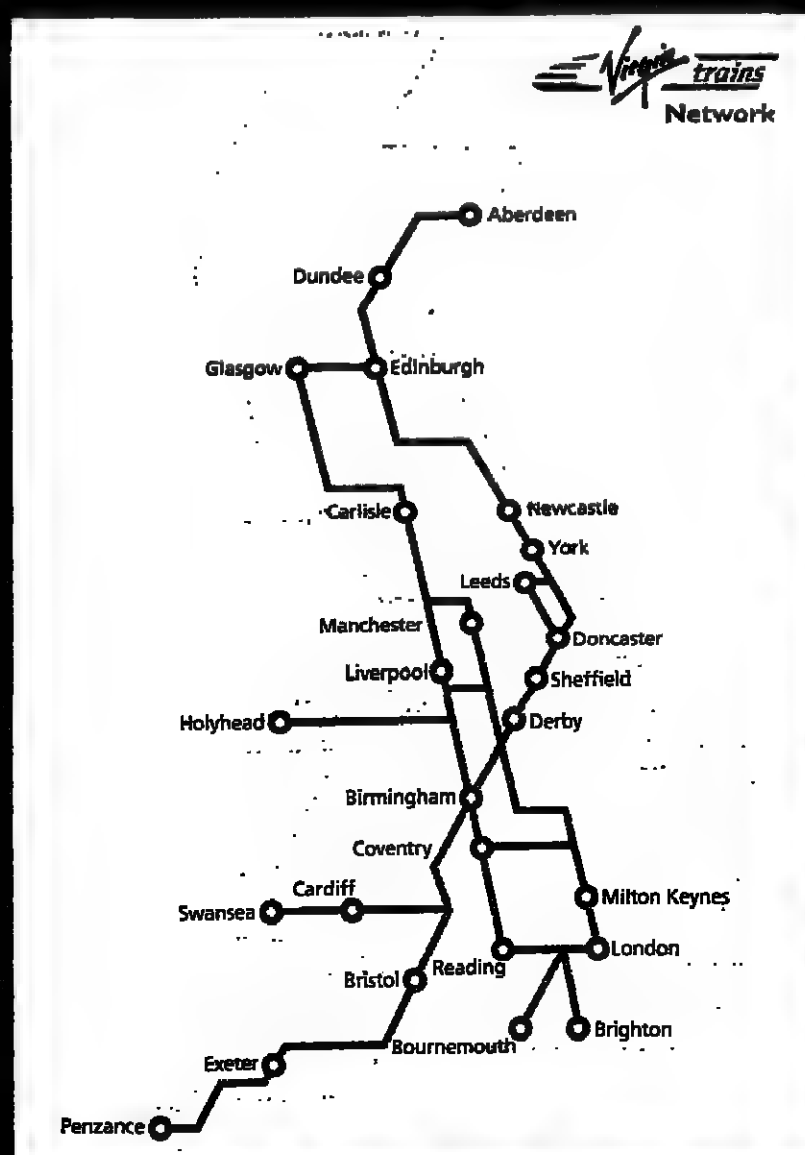
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THE SUNDAY TIMES

TEST DRIVE A VIRGIN TRAIN.



See the Sunday Times next Sunday for details.

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: British Petroleum (61), Citi Telecom Group (51), Edridge Pope & Co, Network Technology, Finsale, Amine, Lambert Smith Hampton, Linton Park, Warrford Investments. Economic statistics: April provisional M0 money supply, March housing starts, April CBI regional trends survey, April CIPS services sector index, US March factory orders, US Treasury announces size of short-term T-bills, API weekly oil supply statistics.

TOMORROW

Interims: Bellway, British Sky Broadcasting, Northern Venture Trust, Royal Bank of Scotland, Tate & Lyle, Jos Holdings, Murray Enterprise, Northern Venture, Wills Corcoran. Finsale: James Beattie, Fleming Far Eastern, J Sainsbury, Securities Trust of Scotland, Whitbread. Economic statistics: March industrial manufacturing output, monthly monetary meeting (provisional date), US Q1 labour productivity, US March consumer credit, EU February trade balance, Bank of France monetary policy council meeting.

THURSDAY

Interims: Avon Rubber, Glasgow Income Trust, Kwik Save, Wigmore Property Trust. Finsale: Body Shop International, Oxford Molecular, Silentnight Holdings, Undervalued Assets Trust. Economic statistics: March new car registrations, Italy January retail sales, US department store sales results for April.

FRIDAY

Interims: VTR. Finsale: Audax Properties, Northern Ireland Electricity, Pwlling, Value & Income Trust. Economic statistics: CBI April distributive trades survey.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	0.75	0.76
Austria Sch	0.02	0.02
Belgium F	0.02	0.02
Canada \$	0.64	0.65
Cyprus Cyp	0.88	0.89
Denmark Kr	0.11	0.12
Finland Mk	0.06	0.07
France F	0.01	0.01
Germany DM	0.01	0.01
Greece Dr	0.01	0.01
Hong Kong \$	0.01	0.01
Iceland	0.01	0.01
Ireland P	0.01	0.01
Israel Sh	0.01	0.01
Italy Lit	0.01	0.01
Japan Yen	0.01	0.01
Malta	0.01	0.01
Netherlands Gld	0.01	0.01
New Zealand \$	0.01	0.01
Norway Kr	0.01	0.01
Portugal Esc	0.01	0.01
S Africa R	0.01	0.01
Spain Ptas	0.01	0.01
Sweden Kr	0.01	0.01
Switzerland F	0.01	0.01
Turkey Lira	0.01	0.01
USA \$	0.01	0.01

Rates for bank of London bank rates only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Friday.

COMPANIES



MICHAEL BROWN

Scaling the swing against Sainsbury

J SAINSBURY: After January's profits warning few surprises are expected when the group unveils full-year figures tomorrow. Sainsbury has already carefully steered analysts towards a final pre-tax profit number of between £640 million and £650 million, before Texas integration costs, compared with last year's £764 million. That is a fall of 15 per cent, with earnings down 16 per cent from 27.8p to 23.3p.

NatWest Securities warns that it may still be too early to talk in terms of a recovery, but close attention will be paid to margins for signs of stability.

The group, headed by David Sainsbury, may have halted the erosion of market share, but there will need to be firm evidence that like-for-like sales have continued to improve without inflicting further damage on margins.

The payout is expected to be pegged at 12.1p net.



David Sainsbury must show he has halted the landslide of Tesco gains in market share

BRITISH PETROLEUM: A strong performance is expected from the oil company when it unveils first-quarter figures today, with net income likely to grow by around 14 per cent from £629 million to £715 million. This follows a disappointing fourth quarter for 1996, with earnings failing to match expectations.

Such a performance would be all the more remarkable when taking into account the decline in the oil price during the period of around \$2.50 a barrel.

BP's performance during the past year has closely tracked movements of spot oil prices, although in the past few weeks it has done somewhat better.

The net payout is expected to climb by 1p to 5.25p.

WHITBREAD: The benefits of the group's expansion plans will start to make themselves apparent when the group unveils full-year figures tomorrow.

They are likely to show pre-tax profits up from £283.1 million to £320.1 million, an increase of 13 per cent, with earnings a share 15 per cent higher at 48.8p. A solid performance is expected from the leisure division, which includes the likes of David Lloyd, where money has been spent on a programme of new openings.

The improvement in sales mix across all parts of the business will also have provided scope to improve margins. But the City will also want to hear that there

has been a better return on capital. Shareholders are likely to see an 8 per cent increase in payout, from 21.85p to 23.65p.

BRITISH SKY BROADCASTING: The City eagerly anticipates news of the satellite broadcaster's plans to roll out digital services when it reveals its third-quarter and nine-month results tomorrow.

Sky, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*, wants to set up a company with British Telecom, Midland Bank and Matsushita that would subsidise the retail prices of the digital set-top boxes.

Unless this company, known internally as Isoo, is launched soon, BSkyB will probably delay

the start of digital broadcasting until next year. Analysts expect nine-month pre-tax earnings of about £24 million, compared with £178 million previously. Increased programming costs, however, are expected to squeeze margins.

TATE & LYLE: Problems at Staley, where profits will have virtually halved, and the fallout from high fructose corn syrup prices will overshadow half-year figures tomorrow.

A downturn in operating profits in Europe, North America and the rest of the world will leave profits at the pre-tax level down 21 per cent at £129 million compared with £191.2 million last time. Earnings per share will be down around 20 per cent, from

21.9p to 17.5p. Even so, brokers are banking on a small increase in the payout, from 5.3p to 5.6p. Currency fluctuations are also expected to have a negative impact on the final outcome, particularly in Europe.

ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND: A wide ranging mix of businesses from global custody and shipping interests to retail banking and Direct Line are expected to contribute to an estimated 20 per cent rise in half-time profits to around £360 million tomorrow.

The dramatic fall in profits from Direct Line Insurance in recent times has been more than offset by the growth of other businesses, according to the banking team at Credit Lyonnais

Laing. CIL points to the 57 per cent profits rise at Citizens, the US subsidiary, which was helped by the \$710 million merger with First New Hampshire, and adds that UK retail banking should produce above average profits growth.

NORTHERN IRELAND ELECTRICITY: Full-year figures on Friday will be overshadowed by regulatory problems. After agreeing a less than expected 25 per cent reduction in tariffs, there is now speculation about a judicial review after the rejection by the Northern Ireland regulator of recommendations made by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Brokers will want to know what progress has been made on cost cutting.

Pre-tax profits are expected to grow by a modest 6 per cent, from £107.4 million to £113.5 million, with earnings up from 38.8p to 63.1p. Shareholders will enjoy a 10 per cent increase in the payout to 21p.

KWIK SAVE: Half-year figures on Thursday will reflect the ravages of trying to hold the middle ground in food retailing. Taking on the market leaders, while also trying to retain market share as the discounters continue to nibble away at margins, will have exacted a toll.

Pre-tax profits are expected to be down by about £4 million, at £40 million, on turnover also slightly down. But the damage to earnings is likely to be less severe, with a decline of just 1 per cent to 18.3p envisaged.

The group has undertaken a five-year restructuring programme and brokers will no doubt be seeking an update. Meanwhile, it is hoped the group will have come up with a few novel ideas to boost margins and that the payout will be held at 6p.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Brown debut fuels air of expectancy

An air of expectancy surrounds the economic agenda this week. The arrival of the new Chancellor finally clears the way for the long-predicted base rate rise. Gordon Brown is scheduled to have his first monetary meeting with Eddie George tomorrow and the market consensus is that rates will rise by a quarter of a point.

But Mr Brown, who will barely have got his feet under his desk at the Treasury, may be tempted to prove his inflation-fighting credibility by raising rates half a point. Or he could pass altogether this month, claiming he has not had time to assess the situation. All three scenarios look plausible when so little is known about Mr Brown's approach — except for the promises to be tough on inflation.

On the data front, Mr Brown will be able to view the latest M0 and industrial production figures ahead of the meeting. The industrial production figures for March are expected to show that manufacturing output is accelerating, although at a much slower rate than the booming services sector, and with exports increasing by half the pound.

MMS International, the economic forecasting company, predicts that on a monthly basis output should climb from 0.2 per cent to 0.5 per cent, while the annual rate should increase from 1.5 per cent to 2.1 per cent. Overall, industrial output should rebound after March's 0.6 per cent decline and show a rise of 0.6 per cent due to a rebound in energy output.

Today's M0, the narrow measure of money supply, should show a smaller monthly rise of 0.3 per cent in March against 0.5 per cent in February. Annual growth should fall from 6.4 per cent to 6.3 per cent. The CBI Distributive trades survey on Thursday should confirm the trend in robust consumer spending growth.

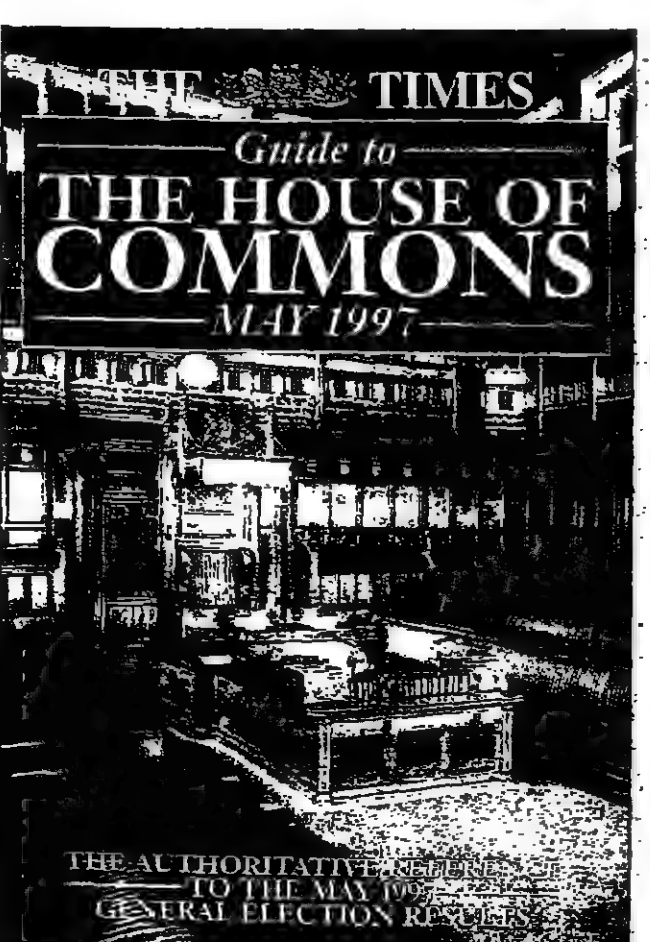
In Germany, the latest data is expected to show that the gentle upswing is continuing, with today's unemployment figures registering a second successive monthly fall.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

The Sunday Times: Buy J Sainsbury, Sell Tate & Lyle. *The Mail on Sunday:* Buy Lopex, Thistle, SR Gent. *The Observer:* Buy Grampian Television. *Avoid:* Kwik Save. *The Sunday Telegraph:* Buy HR Owen, Provend Group. *Sell:* Storehouse, Independent on Sunday. *Buy:* Whitbread, Coltech. *Sunday Business:* Buy Briton Group. *Avoid:* The Car Group.

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Technology shares give Dow a boost

WALL STREET trading was boosted by a rally in high technology shares that pushed the Dow Jones industrial average up 5.22 points to 7076.42 in early trading. On Friday the Dow rose 94.72 points. European markets look set to follow the US example today. Because of the softer-than-forecast economic data last week and a drop in the long bond yield, Wall Street analysts now expect that the Federal Reserve will not raise short-term interest rates again when its policy committee meets on May 20.

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Southern to defend use of customer information

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Data Protection Registrar and Southern Electric are this week poised for a showdown over the use of customer bases.

Southern Electric, along with Centrica — the renamed British Gas supply arm — and other regional electricity companies, have been served with preliminary enforcement notices by the data watchdog. They are to stop cross-marketing of services to lists of existing customers.

Southern Electric, the only independent regional electricity company, will try to persuade the registrar to change her mind at a meeting on Friday. If it is unsuccessful it

will seek a data protection tribunal. A spokesman said: "We will present a strong case as to why we shouldn't have to stop paid-for advertising from a subsidiary appearing in the customer magazine."

Elizabeth France, the Data Protection Registrar, moved on Southern Electric over adverts appearing from its electrical contractor subsidiary in a magazine that goes out with the bills of the utility's 2.3 million customers. She has also targeted Centrica after it sent out leaflets to its 19 million customers ahead of sending out a stream of information regarding other services offered by Centrica. The gas supplier has already met Ms France and has submitted evidence.

Other utilities are also believed to have received preliminary enforcement notices. These demand a response from the company within 28 days prior to enforcement notices prohibiting the information dissemination.

The clash between the utilities and the registrar will be watched closely by the industry. Data protection is seen as poorly defined and companies are keen to make the best use of their databases as competition develops in household gas and approaches in electricity.

Some regulators are in two minds. Anxious to protect customers from exploitation, they fear that the drive for competition will be undermined if cross-selling by utilities in other industries is banned.



Elizabeth France aims to stop utilities from cross-marketing services to existing customers as competition is stepped up

Regent Pacific sets out float details

BY ADAM JONES

REGENT PACIFIC, the emerging markets investment house, announced details of its partial flotation in Hong Kong yesterday, but remained tight-lipped about whether it will use some of the proceeds to pounce on the Hambros banking group.

Regent's HK\$447 million (£35.3 million) placing and new issue values the company at HK\$2.5 billion and aims to raise US\$50 million to \$55 million. Institutions have been told that the placing has been oversubscribed. A quarter of the shares are

being offered to the public for subscription at HK\$2.02 in Hong Kong. The public offer starts today and ends on Friday.

Regent Pacific owns nearly 4 per cent of Hambros, which had to apologise to the Co-operative Wholesale Society last week for its part in the abortive bid by Andrew Regan, Regent's chairman and chief executive, Jim Mellon, has described Hambros as a "fantastic break-up situation".

He needs 10 per cent of the banking group to call an extraordinary meeting to put Regent's break-up plans to other shareholders. Sophia Shaw, marketing director,

said: "We have made our feelings known previously. At the moment, we don't have any further comment. We are watching the developments with interest."

The proceeds of the offering, which will see management and staff holdings in the company cut from 41 per cent to 33 per cent of the enlarged capital, will expand corporate finance activities and new brokerage and fund management operations in eastern Europe, as well as funding a marketing drive. Regent's post-tax profits in the year to March 31 are expected to be US\$31 million.

BSM fails to please investors on written test

BY FRASER NELSON

BSM, the motoring school, will this week come under fire from shareholders demanding to know how the company's management has failed to turn the written driving test to its advantage.

At its annual meeting on Friday, the company is also expected to defend its decision to defy corporate governance rules and give its directors three-year rolling contracts. This cost the company £350,000 when Paul Massey resigned as chief executive last year.

Some institutional shareholders will demand an explanation as to why the company has turned from enthusing about the test to blaming it for a 50 per cent meltdown in half-year profits in less than a year.

One said: "The basic logic of the matter is that BSM is the market leader in tuition for driving tests and should have found a way to benefit if the test becomes more difficult. At the very least, it should have done its homework to find out how the test will affect the market."

BSM, which has 20 per cent of the market, decided not to offer tuition for the test and to publish a range of test books instead.

Richard Glover, who has succeeded Mr Massey, said last week that the company had not expected students to stay at home until they passed the theory exam, which has led to a 51 per cent decline in driving test applications.

Another of BSM's institutional shareholders said many in the City felt betrayed because the company billed itself as a reliable investment anchored to a steady and economically sheltered market.

BSM insists its market is bound to bounce back. But critical analysts said its plans to close 18 driving centres suggest it is preparing for a longer-term decline.

The Motor Schools Association, which represents Britain's 7,000 instructors, said that some of its members fear the test could shrink the market by up to a fifth.

TGE sets its sights on stock market

TGE, a specialist engineering group made up of six businesses bought in 1995 from Meggit, the aerospace to electronics company, is considering flotation after making pre-tax profits of £2.4 million in turnover of £47.2 million in its first year (Chris Ayres writes).

The company will today announce a \$15 million contract won by its Ion Track Instruments, to supply explosive detection equipment to the US Federal Aviation Authority.

Answers from page 28

PAREU
(c) A skirt worn by men and women in Polynesia, made of a single straight piece of cloth, usually of printed cotton. So pareu cloth, the cloth of which this and other Polynesian garments are made. The native Polynesian name: "To walk in the woods and hills of Papeete was sheer pleasure, for there we wore only an airy pareu, and the temperature felt like a pleasant dream."

PONHAUS
(c) Pig's brawn or scrapple. From the German *plunne* a frying pan + *hase* a rabbit. Therefore "pan rabbit" is the same sort of beast as "Welsh rarebit". Originally, Pohns or scrapple was made from the head of the freshly killed piglet, but good, fresh, lean pork of any cut may be used.

ROSELLA
(a) A brightly coloured seed-eating Australian parakeet belonging to the genus *Platycercus*. Parrots of Australia, 1964: "I rather feel that the Blue-checked is a very beautiful connecting link between Pale-headed and Northern Rosellas."

PSIONIC
(c) (The study of) the paranormal. Psi, the 23rd letter of the Greek alphabet, the Roman letter S. Hence: (i) paranormal phenomena or faculties collectively. "Dr Lawrence, at the age of ninety, founded the Psiotic Medical Society. This drew together homeopathy and radiesthesia."

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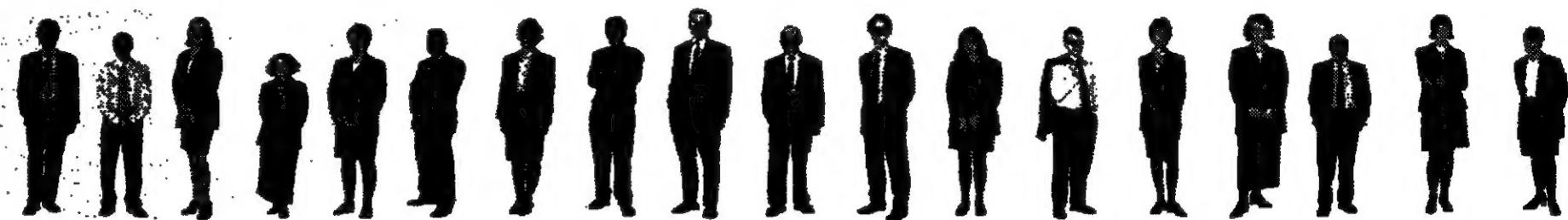
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Netherlands	(Dfl)	7200	3600	1800	600	7200	3600	1800	600
Spain	(Ptas)	72000	36000	18000	6000	72000	36000	18000	6000
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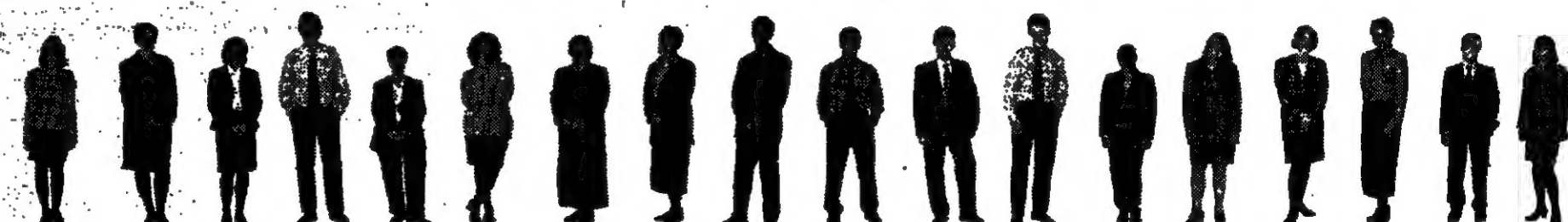
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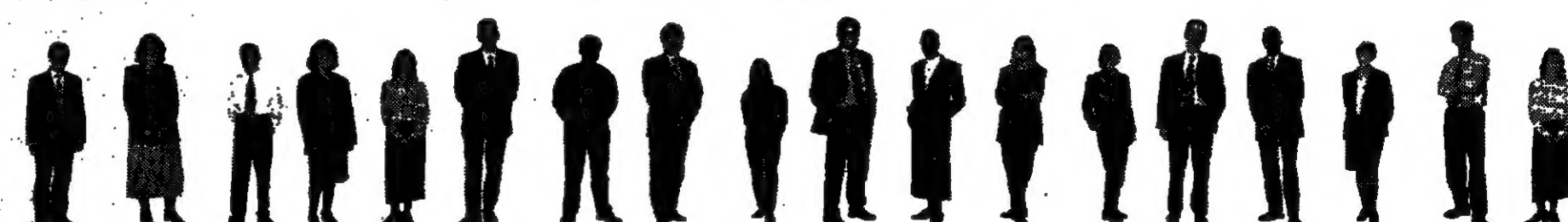
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Not bad for a first day



Flightpath shows Prescott way to his model railway

Labour could seal a great deal with Railtrack, says Carl Mortished

When the young Blair family closed the door to the cheering crowds in Downing Street on Friday, the warm "new Labour" glow of the smiling new Prime Minister vanished from City dealing rooms. It was rapidly replaced by the gruff and distinctly "old Labour" face of John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister and transport supremo. Dealers promptly marked Railtrack shares down 2 per cent, cutting the privatised rail network's value by £125 million.

The reaction is somewhat perverse. Publicly owned public transport is deeply embedded in the psyche of the on-socialist Labour Party. In power, however, Labour must do business with a company that took part in the destruction of one of the pillars of their old concept of society. The temptation to tax the business, to constrain its management and to get revenge will be huge, but Labour has other priorities, chiefly an electorate desperate to see a reversal of decades of under-investment in Britain's infrastructure. If Mr Prescott the former shop steward can be persuaded to do business with the devil, then Mr Prescott the Deputy Prime Minister could cut a terrific deal with the Railtrack bosses.

Opposition to the break-up and sale of British Railways was fierce, but, in the end, backfired. Vague threats from Clare Short, then Labour's transport spokeswoman, ensured that the public offer of Railtrack shares was a damp squib. The shadow cabinet was divided over what to do about it, with Gordon Brown, as Shadow Chancellor, counselling against renationalisation. However, the drip-feed of vague threats from Ms Short was enough to frighten institutional investors. Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the stockbroker, reckoned that the negative publicity had cut £500 million from the sale price.

Sure enough, in the three months after the May 1996 flotation, Railtrack shares remained in a siding. Then, on July 25, Labour sent out a message that was seized on with glee by the markets. Ms Short was sacked as Shadow Transport Secretary and Railtrack shares woke up, gaining 50 per cent over two months and reaching a peak of almost £7 in March, a rise of



The way things were: Richard Hannah, of UBS, says there was no golden age of state ownership for the railways

80 per cent since the flotation in May last year. Investors had other reasons to look fondly at the privatised rail utility. The company had been underpinning hugely on its asset maintenance programme: every year Railtrack sets aside more than £400 million to rebuild crumbling bridges and stations, but, for the two years to March 1996, the company had rolled up a provision of almost £300 million for maintenance work that had been budgeted but not spent. The markets saw the makings of a cash hoard and suspected that Railtrack, like water and electricity companies, would turn into a privatisation honeypot with share buybacks and special dividends.

Railtrack's regulator finally spoke out in December and again in January, declaring the underpinning "totally unacceptable", spurring an unrelenting Railtrack into a public relations offensive in which it declared that it would spend £10 billion on the rail network over the next ten years. Most of the investment outlined in last February's network management statement had already been spent out in the flotation prospectus of the previous year. Yet the sums are enormous, larger than any previous government's financial commitment to rail. That poses a problem for a Labour administration, strapped for cash but committed to improving public transport.

Richard Hannah, transport analyst with UBS, reckons that Railtrack's commitment to spend £10 billion per year gives

the company a powerful card to play against a Government contemplating windfall taxes and more intense regulation. Mr Hannah said: "There was no golden age of state ownership. Successive governments have short-changed the railways. The Government should allow the private sector to do what it does well, but if shareholders think there is no adequate return to be had on that £10 billion, the sum will simply have to be added to the public sector borrowing requirement."

Faced with demands for huge spending increases on health and education, Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, will resist any capital projects from Mr Prescott's transport ministry and the new Secretary of State will have no choice but to negotiate transport improvements with the well-endowed Railtrack. Unlike its customers, the financially challenged rail franchise operators, Railtrack has a sound asset base, a balance sheet with £2.5 billion in shareholders' funds and gearing of less than 25 per cent. This gives Railtrack both a carrot and a stick. The carrot is £10 billion of investment, the prospect of a modernised efficient railway network that might lure drivers off the congested roads. But if Labour ignores the carrot, imposes a heavy windfall tax, and attempts to squeeze Railtrack's profits, it can have the stick. Short of its ability to offer

investors growth, Railtrack would simply offer them more dividends to compensate for a weak share price. A share buy-back programme would be set in place and Railtrack would borrow heavily against its assets to pay for it. A financially more fragile rail utility would be less able to support big capital projects, would require even higher returns and new Labour's partnership with business would be de-railed for years to come.

Clearly, the carrot ought to look more attractive to a Transport Secretary seeking results but faced with a penny-pinching Chancellor. Mr Hannah reckons that there is scope for the Government to do a deal with Railtrack. Huge projects such as the upgrading of the West Coast main line and the project to connect Thameslink stations north and south of the capital are under way, but Railtrack could do more, given the right incentives.

The model for this utility should be BAA, the airports group, in whose case a cosy privatised monopoly has dramatically improved Britain's airport infrastructure. Railtrack, like BAA, owns its terminals, the mainline stations where the scope for retail development on the present dreary platforms and concourses is huge. Unfortunately, incentives to develop Railtrack's property were put in doubt by Andrew Smith, the former Shadow Transport Secretary. In March, Mr

Smith promised to put the squeeze on Railtrack's property profits. Currently, the company is allowed to make £1 billion from property up to 2001, but must hand a quarter of any surplus to train operators.

The BAA analogy may prove to be attractive to a Labour Government. Railtrack's bosses are already mulling over the possibility of further rail projects that would involve the airports group — another route from Heathrow to a mainline station, a rail link from Heathrow to Gatwick and a connection from Heathrow to the main rail line to Bristol and points West. The wild card is the London Underground: Railtrack would dearly love to add this network to its portfolio, at the right price, but the noises coming from parts of the new administration are that a Tory privatisation plan will be scrapped.

However, Labour's instincts, whatever the rhetoric, are to be friendly to monopolies, and the party has done at least one U-turn on privatisation already. Tony Blair found it easy to do a pre-election deal with BT, linking schools to the information superhighway. A Labour Government that wants a better Tube for London might find a deal with Railtrack convenient. If that were to mean new investment in the Underground without a huge bill for Gordon Brown to settle, who would complain?

Keep a close eye on the balance sheet

Martin Weale and Garry Young give some sound advice to the Chancellor on the management of public finances

One of the most difficult challenges that will face the new Government is how to improve the quality of public services, while devoting no more resources to them. With public borrowing in 1997-98 vastly higher than in 1996-97 and with no mandate for significantly higher taxation, it needs to maintain the firm control over public spending that had been promised by the Conservatives. This is in order to staunch the wounds to the public finances which have been caused by the excessive borrowing of the last five years.

We argued in our recent *Fiscal Report* that the balance sheet is a key indicator of the state of the public finances and that it is more important to pay attention to this than it is to try to achieve any particular number for the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement. As with families forced to sell the silver or remortgage their homes, or companies selling off profitable operations, a worsening balance sheet is a sign that the Government has been living beyond its means.

The public sector's balance sheet shows on the one side the assets owned by the Government directly and indirectly. Its assets include a range of capital goods which are made available to the public without charge. With few exceptions people do not pay when they use the roads — and no one has yet suggested coin-in-the-slot street lighting as a way of charging either for the electricity or the capital costs of the

lighting system. Hospitals and schools represent capital investment but users do not pay any charge for this. Then there are other physical assets, such as council housing, for which users are charged. The last data available for the end of 1995, put the total value of the public sector's assets physical assets at £407 billion.

The Government's liabilities are perhaps more familiar. National Savings is a means of government borrowing as, of course, is the issue of government stock. Against these we have to offset the financial assets, such as the foreign exchange reserves which the Government owns. The value of government financial liabilities, net of financial assets was £307 billion in December 1995, giving the Government net wealth of £100 billion.

A more or less neutral position would be one in which the Government's net wealth rises in line with national income. This implies, broadly speaking, that the Government's contribution to welfare, supplied through the assets that it owns, neither rises nor falls in importance to the rest of the economy. If government net wealth falls as a share of national

income, then taxpayers will find, one way or another that their burden is increasing.

The most obvious way in which net wealth can fall is by increased government borrowing. Future taxpayers are worse off because they have to pay higher taxes to pay the interest to the people who have lent to the Government. But wealth could be allowed to decline in a number of other ways. "Saving" money by not maintaining the capital means that future taxpayers incur costs and discomfort because roads are potholed or the Tube may break down. Saving money by replacing the public sector provision by private sector provision means that taxpayers have to pay for services which had hitherto been free.

A recent fiscal illusion which would be exposed by use of the balance sheet would have been the Private Finance Initiative. This is a scheme by which the private sector owns capital goods (like hospitals or even HM Treasury) and then leases them to the public sector. Government borrowing is reduced in the short term because the Government does not

need to borrow to pay for the cost of building a new hospital. But in the longer term, the taxpayer is worse off because leasing charges have to be paid for the use of the hospital. Indeed the taxpayer is almost certainly worse off than if the Government were to own the building because the Government is able to borrow more cheaply than the private sector. The PFI, which gives the illusion of saving money, actually increases the tax burden.

There may of course be sound economic arguments for leasing. Services used in the building may be provided more cheaply and efficiently than if the thing were publicly owned (although why such efficiency savings should be impossible to achieve in the public sector is unclear). But a government which looked at its balance sheet would feel a need to reduce government borrowing to offset an increase in leasing.

The decline in the balance sheet position since 1990 is costing the taxpayer 1½p to 2p on the standard rate of income tax permanently. Had policy-makers thought in these terms, the more recent reductions in the rate of income tax might have seemed less of a good idea. The new Government should keep an eye on its balance sheet to stop this ever happening again.

Martin Weale is director and Garry Young is a senior research fellow at the National Institute of Economic and Social Research

TELEVISION CHOICE

The trauma of upheaval

Moving People Channel 4, 8.00pm

John Peel keeps in the background and lets his foreground figures do the talking: the now established style for an often funny, always perceptive series on the traumas of moving house. This second lot begins with likely led Gavin, admitting he has one day left to find a flat before his American girlfriend returns from New York. She's older and tougher than 21-year-old Gavin and when she drops eyes on the grizzly flat he's found, hell hath no fury... Annie and Mike are Lancashire line dancers who take off for rain-soaked, isolated Glenfiddich in Scotland to (hopefully) rent out B&Bs. Against the odds this seems to work. And sad, indeed tragic, is the case of the pensioner and widower Edward, whose much-loved retirement home is slipping into the sea. And the insurance won't pay....

The Investigator Channel 4, 9.00pm

Even before the opening titles comes the caption "This film was made without the co-operation of the Ministry of Defence." You can see why: although the British Army decriminalised homosexuals in 1994, gays and lesbians are still being dismissed and the numbers are rising. Britain remains the only country in the European Community to ban gay people from the Forces. This is a powerful drama-documentary made by Chris Okey who directed, among much else, *Dances on the Rock*. It is based on the true story of Caroline Mesinger, who appears at the end to state her case but is played throughout by the excellent Helen Baxendale. Through her eyes we see how, between 1973 and 1990, the British Army persecuted and victimised lesbians in their ranks until Caroline herself, a Staff Sergeant with an exemplary record in the Royal Military Police, was forced to leave the job she loved.

Touching Evil ITV, 9.00pm

DI Creggan (Robson Green) is now obsessively involved with the case of child abduction begun last week by the Serial Crime Unit. The same trademarks — a plastic daffodil and a track shoe —



Helen Baxendale investigates (C4, 9pm)

have been left where children disappeared, subsequently murdered, in Germany as well as at the sites of fresh disappearances in Britain. It seems a bit of a cheat to have a blubbery psychic sidekick (creator Paul Abbott's *Cracker* would never have stooped to that) and Creggan's temper is over the top. Of course he "knows" Professor Hinks (Ian McDiarmid) is guilty but so far the evidence is circumstantial — and Hinks is just as clever at cat-and-mouse games as his persecutor. Watch how director Julian Jarrold injects an element of mysticism — even poetry — into his wonderfully angled shots. Impressive stuff, this. A new story starts next week.

Network First: Between the Lines ITV, times vary

If we are to take seriously the evidence of forensic and handwriting experts, and eyewitnesses not previously heard at his trial, then we can only conclude that there is a very good chance indeed that Paul Malone, convicted in 1986 of several armed robberies on Merseyside and Wirral and sent down for 15 years, is innocent. And that the police involved have a grim case to answer. Malone was released in 1995 on licence and since then has turned to the Court of Appeal to clear his name. Step by step, using actors and testimony from witnesses, and Malone himself, this disturbing film builds up the case against the constabulary. Elizabeth Cowley

RADIO CHOICE

Thirty Minutes to Kill Radio 4, 2.00pm

And if you should have 30 minutes to kill this afternoon, let me recommend a good way for you to do the deed. All you have to do is turn on your radio, tune in to Radio 4 at 2pm and, hey presto, you'll be off on a roller-coaster ride that should leave you feeling deliciously exhausted by the time 2.30 arrives. Lynne Truss, chuckle-raiser extraordinaire in *The Times*, has written a comedy about a barmy couple (brilliantly played by Michael Maloney and Haydn Gwynne) who are about to leave on a holiday to Mongolia (this choice, not Florence (hers). They know — and so do we as chaos ensues — that time's winged chariot is about to have a rather large spoke shoved into its wheels.

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo White 2.00pm Nicky Campbell 4.00 Kevin Greening 6.15 Newsbeat 8.15 *Evening Session* 8.30 *Digital Update* with Rachel Heywood 8.40 Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00am Carr Sturges 4.00 Clive Wain

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 8.30 Ken Bruce 11.00 Jimmy Krawford 1.30pm Debbie Thompson 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Alan Freeman: Their Greatest Hits 8.00 Nigel Ogden 9.00 *The Rock 'n' Roll Years* 9.30 *If I Had a Talking Picture* 10.30 Richard Allen 12.05am Steve Mackinnon 3.00 Alan Leslie

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, including *Reading News* 6.00 *The Mags* 12.00 Midday with Mark Radcliffe 1.00pm *Radio 5 News* 2.00pm *Radio 5 News* 3.00pm *Radio 5 News* 4.00pm *Radio 5 News* 5.00pm *Radio 5 News* 6.00pm *Radio 5 News* 7.00pm *Radio 5 News* 8.00pm *Radio 5 News* 9.00pm *Radio 5 News* 10.00pm *Radio 5 News* 11.00pm *Radio 5 News* 12.00am *Radio 5 News* 1.00am *Radio 5 News* 2.00am *Radio 5 News* 3.00am *Radio 5 News* 4.00am *Radio 5 News* 5.00am *Radio 5 News* 6.00am *Radio 5 News* 7.00am *Radio 5 News* 8.00am *Radio 5 News* 9.00am *Radio 5 News* 10.00am *Radio 5 News* 11.00am *Radio 5 News* 12.00am *Radio 5 News* 1.00am *Radio 5 News* 2.00am *Radio 5 News* 3.00am *Radio 5 News* 4.00am *Radio 5 News* 5.00am *Radio 5 News* 6.00am *Radio 5 News* 7.00am *Radio 5 News* 8.00am *Radio 5 News* 9.00am *Radio 5 News* 10.00am *Radio 5 News* 11.00am *Radio 5 News* 12.00am *Radio 5 News* 1.00am *Radio 5 News* 2.00am *Radio 5 News* 3.00am *Radio 5 News* 4.00am 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Long, long trails a-winding (to nowhere)

On Sunday afternoon, my radio drama producer rang me up. "We've got a trail at 4.15," he said. "Time in the radio at 4.15, they're trailing your play." As a proud author, of course I dropped everything. A trail? I tried to imagine it. A snippet of tantalising dialogue, guaranteed to get listeners so excited about a Tuesday afternoon play that they would start contriving a sick-day at once. But no hum, guess what, the faster for my play did not materialise. Instead, they advertised The Heart Surgeon on BBC1. That's just the way it goes.

"It's a judgment!" yelled Orla Brady, in a froth of guilt. "You said this wouldn't happen!" she cried in anguish. I didn't mind. This trail had been played so many times on the telly that it was by now an old chum. I was just surprised they didn't add the overworked Hamish Macbeth trailer, too — what with "You never once told me

that you loved me Hamish!" being BBC's catch-phrase for the entire weekend. In Hamish Macbeth, you see, Isabel was evidently freezing to death in a cave, and growing reproachful. "You never once told me that you loved me Hamish!" was a good line, and long overdue. Well said, Isabel. By the time it was actually delivered on Sunday night, however, I had not only perfected my singing, Isabel's accent ("You never once told me") but had added pathetic teeth-chattering to the effect as well.

There is a serious point here, however. The trails for The Heart Surgeon were intrinsic to the experience of watching it, and since they gave you the whole story in advance, they rather reduced the element of surprise. When heart surgeon Alex (Nigel Havers) leached into his fatal attraction with Marcelle (Orla Brady), I doubt there was anyone in the

audience who didn't know precisely where it was leading. "He's going to perform heart surgery on Marcelle's husband Larry, blah-blah, and he's going to die, blah-blah, and then there'll be a scandal," they said.

It's arguable, of course, that most audiences for *Othello* likewise have an inkling how it will turn out, but on the other hand *Othello* is rarely shown over two consecutive nights on BBC1. At the end of Part One of *The Heart Surgeon*, Alex had only just agreed to perform the op. It had taken 75 minutes to tell half of what its audience knew already.

Luckily, *The Heart Surgeon* was made of very superior stuff. Good though the plot was, it certainly wasn't everything. The acting and characterisation from all three principals (Orla Brady, Crantich was Larry) was quite superb, the pacing of John Collee's



Lynne Truss

intelligent script was perfectly judged, and the music by Hollywood composer Michael Kamey was worth every penny. Best of all, scenes that elsewhere might have been telegraphed in sound-bite dialogue ("As from now, Alex, you're officially on holiday!") were remarkably given sufficient room to breathe, and to seem real.

In fact, *The Heart Surgeon* somehow managed to achieve an

unusually high level of authenticity, all round. It was easy to believe, for example, that Alex, Marcelle and Larry had been friends for years. Just the way Marcelle said her familiar "Hello" when arriving at Alex's house: just the way Larry and Alex played guitar together — very badly, but with mutual seriousness. But more importantly, the quite lengthy (and very bloody) surgery scenes were convincingly that Nigel Havers was a brilliant, super-competent man whose Titanic self-belief was not only justified, but even rather laudable.

How different from Paula Milne's polemical drama *The Frigate Heart* last year (with Nigel Haworth), which simply demonised medical arrogance. The fatal flaw of any surgeon is likely to be his confidence in his own opinion, and so it was with Alex. But the script had the reverse effect of Paula Milne's — instead of

banging you over the head with the man's inadequacies, it let you discover for yourself how few friends he had, his need for clarity and control, his paradoxical weakness. It was a real tragedy for a man like that to lose his best friend under the knife. It didn't serve him right.

Elsewhere on telly last night it was movies, spookier. Wallace and Gromit and Anthea Turner. Anyone would think it was a Bank Holiday. Thank goodness, then, for such a decent bit of drama to enliven the more obvious fare. Late-night on BBC1, *Unplugged* — Oasis turned out to be a lacklustre special event not worth waiting up for, in which Noel Gallagher took centre-stage at the Festival Hall for an acoustic (and cursory) performance of the Oasis songbook. "The brains I had went to my head" sang Noel, frowning under the spotlights

beneath those enormous Thunderbird-puppet eyebrows, and expertly strumming a guitar. What an excellent confessional line that is. And how appropriate in the cinema.

For we were still in the world of overweening arrogance, alas. Where was the more famous brother, Liam? "Liam's not with us tonight, he's got a sore throat. You're stuck with the ugly four," announced the charmer, Noel, matter-of-factly, before rattling unceremoniously through the repertoire on his own, without any attempt at engaging chat. Well, what a swizz. And a bit late to break the news, I'd say, at one o'clock in the morning.

No Liam? Or rather, just Liam peering grimly and inexplicably over the balcony of the gods, in a hat, with a stone-faced Patsy Kensit by his side? Well, conspicuously, there were no trails telling us that beforehand, were there?

BBC1
8.00am Business Breakfast (81457)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (72051)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (834544)
9.20 Style Challenge (8903781)
9.45 Kibitz (710708)
10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (15877)
11.00 News (T) (7904254)
11.05 The Great Escape (7361254)
11.35 Change That (4543588)
12.00 News (T) (8531525)
12.05pm Call My Bluff (8273631)
12.35 Good Living (8610631)
1.00 News (T) and weather (82438)
1.30 Regional News (8654544)
1.40 The Weather Show (8123631)
1.45 Neighbours (T) (4004327)
2.10 Quinny (8682235)
2.55 Through the Keyhole (8558728)
3.20 Private Places (8552059) 3.30 Mice and Men (752145) 3.35 Playdays (8403707) 3.55 Arthur (8414186) 4.20 Julia Kell and Harriet (7842490) 4.35 Pirates (1523059) 5.00 Newsround (T) (4774631) 5.10 The Lowdown (T) (8550457)
5.35 Neighbours (T) (783341)
6.00 News (T) and weather (167)
6.30 Regional News (419)
7.00 Holiday: Fasten Your Seatbelts! Carol Simla becomes a silver service waitress on the busiest night of the year at the Glenageary Hotel; Monty Don poses as an entertainer at a Club Med resort in the Bahamas (T) (8254)
7.30 Eastenders: George meets a glamorous friend from the past. Grant makes a decision about Courtney's future while the Fowlers continue to fret about wayward Martin (T) (631)
8.00 Children's Hospital: A baby is brought in suffering from a rash which puzzles the doctors; consultant Richard Bryson carries out intricate skin-grafts on the 13-year-old burns victim first seen last week (T) (2902)
8.30 Goodnight Sweetheart: Gary and Phoebe's wedding day arrives, but will the groom make it to the church on time? (T) (8709)
8.00 News (T) and weather (8231)
8.30 999 Special: Missing in Action insight into the story of a fighter pilot who hid in enemy territory for six days after being shot down over war-torn Bosnia, and the dramatic rescue attempt carried out by 61 of his colleagues. The programme features audio recordings and footage made at the time of the events (T) (15683)
10.25 Match of the Day: Desmond Lynn introduces highlights of tonight's game between Liverpool and Wimbledon. Plus, the pick of the action from West Ham United v Newcastle United (8164254)
11.40 Rocky II (1979) Sequel to the 1976 Oscar-winning drama, written, directed and starring Sylvester Stallone, which sees the underdog hero marry his sweetheart and father Rocky Jr, before stepping into the ring for another shot at Apollo Creed's heavyweight title (T) (800438)
1.35am Weather (3340377)

BBC2
8.00am Open University: 18th-Century Strasbourg (8630396) 8.25 Kestrelton Hall (T) (8519506) 8.50 Craigside House (8100131)
7.15 See Hear: Breakfast News (T) (3092709) 7.30 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (T) (8207761) 7.55 Newsround's Rock and Roll Years (T) (T) (8309893) 8.25 The Raccons (T) (3498993)
9.00 Daytime on Two: Study Ireland (77295) 9.30 Believe It or Not: A Christian Marriage to Lourdes (7747896) 9.45 Watch (775051)
10.00 Teletubbies (83761) 10.30 Come Outside (8235059) 10.45 Science Zone (4912186) 11.05 Space Ark (7862410) 11.15 Go for It! (5562631) 11.30 Sportsbank (8686) 12.00 See Hear (T) (T) (3709)
12.30pm Working Lunch (57341)
1.00 Teaching Today (73780) 1.30 Testament: The Bible in Animation (T) (56812) 2.00 Juniper Juniper (T) (1086778)
2.10 Table Tennis: World Championships. Highlights from Manchester (758728)
3.00 News (T): Regional News and weather (869535)
3.05 The Phil Silvers Show (739877) 3.30 Blockbusters (2019761) 3.55 News (T) Regional News and weather (775059)
4.00 Blockbusters: (5752148) 4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (5752235) 4.55 Esther (1643761)
5.30 Today's Day (896)
6.00 The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air: Will proposes first and Lisa gets married (T) (23400)
6.25 Heartbreak High: Kat fails for an older man (T) (28794)
7.10 The O Zone: Gary Barlow, North and South from the TV show No Sweat and the Foo Fighters (778)

BBC3
8.00am Open University: 18th-Century Strasbourg (8630396) 8.25 Kestrelton Hall (T) (8519506) 8.50 Craigside House (8100131)
7.15 See Hear: Breakfast News (T) (3092709) 7.30 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (T) (8207761) 7.55 Newsround's Rock and Roll Years (T) (T) (8309893) 8.25 The Raccons (T) (3498993)
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BBC4
8.00am Open University: 18th-Century Strasbourg (8630396) 8.25 Kestrelton Hall (T) (8519506) 8.50 Craigside House (8100131)
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BBC5
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7.15 See Hear: Breakfast News (T) (3092709) 7.30 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (T) (8207761) 7.55 Newsround's Rock and Roll Years (T) (T) (8309893) 8.25 The Raccons (T) (3498993)
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7.15 See Hear: Breakfast News (T) (3092709) 7.30 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (T) (8207761) 7.55 Newsround's Rock and Roll Years (T) (T) (8309893) 8.25 The Raccons (T) (3498993)
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BBC7
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7.15 See Hear: Breakfast News (T) (3092709) 7.30 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (T) (8207761) 7.55 Newsround's Rock and Roll Years (T) (T) (8309893) 8.25 The Raccons (T) (3498993)
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7.15 See Hear: Breakfast News (T) (3092709) 7.30 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (T) (8207761) 7.55 Newsround's Rock and Roll Years (T) (T) (8309893) 8.25 The Raccons (T) (3498993)
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BBC9
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7.15 See Hear: Breakfast News (T) (3092709) 7.30 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (T) (8207761) 7.55 Newsround's Rock and Roll Years (T) (T) (8309893) 8.25 The Raccons (T) (3498993)
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6.25 Heartbreak High: Kat fails for an older man (T) (28794)
7.10 The O Zone: Gary Barlow, North and South from the TV show No Sweat and the Foo Fighters (778)

BBC10
8.00am Open University: 18th-Century Strasbourg (8630396) 8.25 Kestrelton Hall (T) (8519506) 8.50 Craigside House (8100131)
7.15 See Hear: Breakfast News (T) (3092709) 7.30 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (T) (8207761) 7.55 Newsround's Rock and Roll Years (T) (T) (8309893) 8.25 The Raccons (T) (3498993)
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6.25 Heartbreak High: Kat fails for an older man (T) (28794)
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BBC11
8.00am Open University: 18th-Century Strasbourg (8630396) 8.25 Kestrelton Hall (T) (8519506) 8.50 Craigside House (8100131)
7.15 See Hear: Breakfast News (T) (3092709) 7.30 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (T) (8207761) 7.55 Newsround's Rock and Roll Years (T) (T) (8309893) 8.25 The Raccons (T) (3498993)
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BBC12
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7.15 See Hear: Breakfast News (T) (3092709) 7.30 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (T) (8207761) 7.55 Newsround's Rock and Roll Years (T) (T) (8309893) 8.25 The Raccons (T) (3498993)
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BBC1
8.00am Business Breakfast (81457)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (72051)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (834544)
9.20 Style Challenge (8903781)
9.45 Kibitz (710708)
10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (15877)
11.00 News (T) (7904254)
11.05 The Great Escape (7361254)
11.35 Change That (4543588)
12.00 News (T) (8531525)
12.05pm Call My Bluff (8273631)
12.35 Good Living (8610631)
1.00 News (T) and weather (82438)
1.30 Regional News (8654544)
1.40 The Weather Show (8123631)
1.45 Neighbours (T) (4004327)
2.10 Quinny (8682235)
2.55 Through the Keyhole (8558728)
3.20 Private Places (8552059) 3.30 Mice and Men (752145) 3.35 Playdays (8403707) 3.55 Arthur (8414186) 4.20 Julia Kell and Harriet (7842490) 4.35 Pirates (1523059) 5.00 Newsround (T) (4774631) 5.10 The Lowdown (T) (8550457)
5.35 Neighbours (T) (783341)
6.00 News (T) and weather (167)
6.30 Regional News (419)
7.00 Holiday: Fasten Your Seatbelts! Carol Simla becomes a silver service waitress on the busiest night of the year at the Glenageary Hotel; Monty Don poses as an entertainer at a Club Med resort in the Bahamas (T) (8254)
7.30 Eastenders: George meets a glamorous friend from the past. Grant makes a decision about Courtney's future while the Fowlers continue to fret about wayward Martin (T) (631)
8.00 Children's Hospital: A baby is brought in suffering from a rash which puzzles the doctors; consultant Richard Bryson carries out intricate skin-grafts on the 13-year-old burns victim first seen last week (T) (2902)
8.30 Goodnight Sweetheart: Gary and Phoebe's wedding day arrives, but will the groom make it to the church on time? (T) (8709)
8.00 News (T) and weather (8231)
8.30 999 Special: Missing in Action insight into the story of a fighter pilot who hid in enemy territory for six days after being shot down over war-torn Bosnia, and the dramatic rescue attempt carried out by 61 of his colleagues. The programme features audio recordings and footage made at the time of the events (T) (15683)
10.25 Match of the Day: Desmond Lynn introduces highlights of tonight's game between Liverpool and Wimbledon. Plus, the pick of the action from West Ham United v Newcastle United (8164254)
11.40 Rocky II (1979) Sequel to the 1976 Oscar-winning drama, written, directed and starring Sylvester Stallone, which sees the underdog hero marry his sweetheart and father Rocky Jr, before stepping into the ring for another shot at Apollo Creed's heavyweight title (T) (800438)
1.35am Weather (3340377)

BBC2
8.00am Open University: 18th-Century Strasbourg (8630396) 8.25 Kestrelton Hall (T) (8519506) 8.50 Craigside House (8100131)
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Success story
built on
scrap values

BUSINESS

TRAIN SET 46

Airports could
be a model
for Railtrack

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY MAY 6 1997

TUC mobilises pension power to influence Shell board

By CARL MORTISHED

THE TUC is urging union members who have influence over pension funds to cast their votes in the debate over the environmental and human rights policies of Shell, the multinational oil company.

The initiative by the TUC could herald a new era in shareholder activism, giving employees a powerful voice on issues of corporate responsibility, hitherto left to the discretion of fund managers.

John Monks, the General Secretary of the TUC, has written to members of the organisation's network of pension fund trustees, asking them to ensure that action is taken over a resolution to Shell's annual general meeting demanding improved policies on the environment.

The letter, addressed to some 800 union members who are pension fund trustees, urges them to vote on the Shell resolution and not to leave the matter to pension fund managers. The letter does not tell the trustees how they should cast their vote.

A spokesperson for the TUC said: "Most pension funds don't vote their shares - we are encouraging trustees to vote their shares and to ensure that these matters are raised at trustee board meetings."

The TUC has shareholder guidelines that contain policies on corporate responsibility. When the Shell resolution came up, the organisation considered that the issues fell within the guidelines and the letter was sent just after Easter.

Lobbying from both Shell and environmental groups is intensifying ahead of the May 14 annual general meeting. A small number of large insurance companies are considering a positive response to the resolution.

Representatives of some 20 institutions will today attend a meeting organised by Pirc, the shareholder ethics consultancy, at which environmental groups, including Friends of the Earth and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), will back the resolution. Amnesty UK is also supporting the motion, with a call from Sir Geoffrey Chandler, a former

Shell executive and an Amnesty UK board member, for "social auditing" of Shell's performance. The WWF has written to Sir Peter Davis, head of the Prudential, the largest shareholder in Shell, arguing that the insurance company should back the resolution. The WWF is believed to have been assisting Shell in assessing the environmental impact of major oil projects being undertaken by the company.

The resolution, which calls for improved environmental policies, more

effective monitoring and an independent audit of Shell's performance, is not particularly controversial in its demands. However, strong opposition from the oil company has galvanised environmental groups into a campaign.

Shell, which today publishes its first internal group environmental report, claims that the demands in the resolution have already been met by the company. Last month Shell published a revised set of business principles, including express support for human rights.

Busang called world's worst mining fraud

By ADAM JONES

THE Indonesian gold discovery announced by Canada's Bre-X Minerals, once thought to be among the world's richest finds, was based on data falsified on an "unprecedented" scale, according to investigators.

Straithcon Mineral Services, a Canadian consultant brought in to resolve a dispute over the size of the deposit at Busang, on the island of Borneo, said thousands of mineral samples had been tampered with.

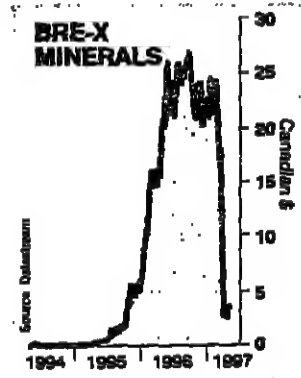
In a scathing report, it said it found no evidence of viable gold deposits in Busang's southern zone, contrary to Bre-X's claims. It was unlikely that gold would ever be found in that sector. The report states: "The magnitude of the tampering with core samples that we believe has occurred and resulting falsification of assay values at Busang is of a scale and over a period of time and with a precision that, to our knowledge, is without precedent in the history of mining."

Straithcon said the gold recovered in samples submitted by Bre-X did not come from the southeast zone of the Busang property, as claimed. John Felderhof, Bre-X's head of exploration, had claimed the site could contain

as much as 200 million ounces of gold. This could have yielded billions of pounds in profit. In a fax sent from the Cayman Islands yesterday, Mr Felderhof said he was not involved in a fraud. He said he was "shocked and dismayed" by the report. He added: "I believe that eventually, our work

Gilded picture... 43

and our deposit in Busang will be confirmed." In a written statement, David Walsh, chairman and chief executive of Bre-X, said: "We share the shock and dismay of our shareholders and others that the gold we thought we had at Busang now appears not to be



there." The company said it had retained legal, accounting and investigative personnel, including Price Waterhouse, to find out how the falsified data was generated.

Straithcon was brought in to assess the Busang site after Bre-X admitted in March that it may have overstated its claim. On March 19, Michael de Guzman, a 43-year-old Filipino who was the company's chief geologist at Busang, fell from a helicopter as it flew over the jungle.

Straithcon's report, and other due diligence work, prompted Bre-X partners to pull out yesterday, including Indonesia's Nusamba Group, owner of a 25 per cent stake in the project. Nusamba is 80 per cent owned by three charities headed by President Suharto.

Freeport McMoRan, which has a 15 per cent stake in Busang, is also withdrawing. Bre-X, which has a 45 per cent stake in Busang, started exploring the site in 1993. Its shares, listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange, soared from a couple of Canadian dollars to \$26.80 (£11.80), even after a ten-for-one stock split.

Rising doubts about the value of the find wiped billions of dollars off the market value in the past six weeks and the shares stood at \$3.23 before being suspended yesterday. Canada's top securities regulator is investigating Bre-X for possible violations of insider dealing laws.



Walsh: shocked and dismayed



Investigators found no evidence of viable gold deposits at the Busang mine



Mystery surrounds the death of Michael de Guzman, Bre-X's chief geologist, who was buried by relatives last month

Telegraph lifts cover price

By OLIVER AUGUST

HOLLINGER International, owner of the Telegraph Group, has increased The Sunday Telegraph's cover price by 10p to 80p in a move to reverse its disastrous recent profits performance.

If the price rise was followed by a 5p increase at the daily sister paper, Hollinger profits

would be back at the £20 million mark, where they stood before the Telegraph papers joined the newspaper price war in 1994.

Two weeks ago, Hollinger reported that operating income had fallen from £16.5 million in 1995 to £11 million in 1996. The decline is the result of an

aggressive seven-day subscription policy, which offers the Telegraph at £1 instead of the £3.65 paid at newsstands.

While the scheme has attracted some new readers, it has done so at a heavy loss to revenue from existing readers, many of whom took advantage of the new offer.

Assuming that present circulation levels remain unchanged, The Sunday Telegraph increase will generate about £4.5 million. A 5p increase at the Daily Telegraph would boost earnings by about £15.5 million. The company was not available for comment yesterday.

Firms face 'flood' of EU labour legislation

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT
FINANCIAL EDITOR

A FLOOD of costly and intrusive new workplace laws is likely to be poured into the European social chapter once Britain has joined the other 14 signatories, Graham Seareant, Conservative, economic spokesman in the European Parliament, claimed yesterday. Medium-sized businesses would be worst hit, he said.

So far, the chapter has been used only for rules obliging multinationals with more than 1,000 employees to have works councils and to ensure unpaid parental leave. However, six new pieces of legislation will work their way through the Brussels pipeline in the coming year, he said.

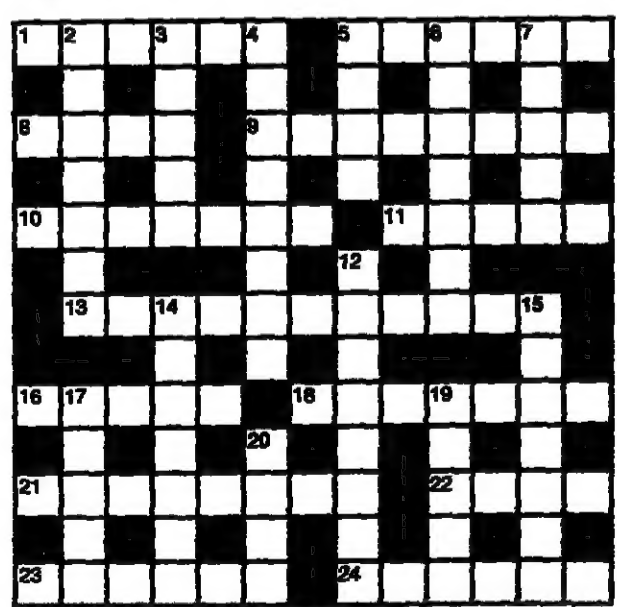
The most immediate are:
□ Compulsory works councils for domestic companies with more than 50 employees.
□ A shift in the burden of proof in many sex discrimination cases.

Under consideration but less certain are:
□ Revising plans for two-tier boards of directors.
□ A directive meeting German demands for equal treatment for workers from other countries to stop migrant workers undercutting locals.

□ A possible clause enforcing union representation in all public works contracts.
□ Legal instruments to promote collective bargaining.

Those friendlier towards the social chapter argue that some of the latter proposals are unlikely to happen soon, if at all. However, they add that British firms face complex EU sexual harassment regulation and a directive to give part-time workers fully equal contract rights.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1086

- ACROSS**
1 Written directions, often in red (6)
3 Object of irrational devotion (6)
8 First man (4)
9 Water-carrier sign: the New Age (8)
10 Punishment: type of kick (7)
11 Fast: cold (5)
13 (Given) impatient bearing (5)
16 Towelling for baby (5)
18 Warship: type of hind (7)
19 Concealed (motives) (8)
22 Gold veneer: a pig (4)
23 Secret (spiritual) knowledge (6)
24 Regular earnings (6)
- DOWN**
2 Informal clothes: strip (7)
3 Ballroom dance, orig. Cuban (5)
4 Purity (8)
5 "Fair is -- and -- is fair" (Macbeth) (4)
6 End-of-line stations (7)
7 Part of wicket: puzzle (5)
12 Beauce 13C cathedral (8)
14 Husband of Eurycleia (7)
15 In name only (7)
17 Exhausted; every cost included (5,2)
19 Dead soul's author (5)
20 Touch lightly, with lips (4)

Reed poised for Microsoft link

By OLIVER AUGUST

REED ELSEVIER, the Anglo-Dutch media group, will today announce a new alliance, believed to be with Microsoft, the American software house, aimed at offering the content of Reed's scientific journals on an Internet web site.

The deal is the latest development in Reed's restructuring programme. The group has shed its newspaper and book divisions over the past two years. It has simultaneously invested heavily in professional and scientific titles available on-line.

The group's move towards electronic publishing comes in response to the growth of academic publications on the Internet. Experts expect Reed's Internet presence to be fruitful because of the weight that the

group's name carries in academic circles.

At the announcement of the full-year results in March, the board acknowledged that further acquisitions in scientific publishing could fall foul of competition authorities.

Microsoft is a late entrant to the Internet market, which had for years been dominated by entrepreneurs and the academics to whom Reed is trying to sell its journals. However, Microsoft's technological capability and its market leadership in the software sector would ensure a high degree of access. Microsoft recently struck a deal with Telere, the electronic financial news division of Dow Jones, the owner of The Wall Street Journal.

New wave of deals for Crest

By ADAM JONES

CREST, the Stock Exchange's electronic settlement system, will today face the second test resulting from the Alliance & Leicester demutualisation.

People who sold their windfall shares in auctions or on the first day of trading have had their deals processed in two waves. The first was due to be through the system last Monday. Today, the second wave should be settled.

Paul Symons, of CrestCo, the system operator, said the first wave of several thousand extra deals went smoothly, with a normal 80 to 92 per cent of trades settled on the intended date. Three times as many A&L trades are today due to be settled, still way below the April peak of transactions.

Black mark for white goods makers on pricing

Verdict plugs choice

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

CONSUMERS are paying the price for electrical goods manufacturers' ability to exert a strong influence on the prices that are charged in shops, according to a report to be released later this week.

Verdict, the consultancy, says in its report on electrical retailers that the price uniformity in the £14.3 billion market reduces choice for consumers. The report also suggests that as a result of a recent increase in insurance premium tax, electrical goods retailers will be forced to raise their prices by between 1 and 2 per cent to protect margins and profits. The market is awaiting a

report from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission on price fixing and the supply of electrical goods. The report was finished on April 30 but publication has been postponed twice. Verdict says it is not now due for several weeks.

If the MMC takes action to encourage more price competition, opening the way for chains like Dixons and Comet to offer heavy discounts, independent shops would suffer initially as they would not be able to match the lower prices. In the longer term it is possible that the chains would raise their prices to improve gross margins. Although customers

would not benefit from higher prices, they would enjoy a wider choice, Verdict says.

The suppliers have held such sway over the market partly because of the way it is divided up among retailers, the report says. Dixons accounts for nearly 19 per cent of all consumer spending on audio-visual goods while Comet accounts for 6.2 per cent. With relatively weak competition, "it has been unnecessary to reduce margins and open up a price war".

Verdict says even established retailers would be unable to obtain supplies for low-cost outlets at present.

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Nationwide Life	37.81	36.00
Clerical Medical	45.50	101.68
Black Horse Life	46.38	111.20
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